

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Wade Boggs



**Clark stresses productivity as goal for Navy**

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**Auburn finishes undefeated, unsatisfied**

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Auburn's Camell Williams (24) and Virginia Tech's Vincent Fuller

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# Tsunami devastation shocks Pacific troops

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*'When you're out there and see it, you just can't believe it.'* — Marine Capt. Andrew Rice



Above: A sailor from the USS Abraham Lincoln carries bags of food to a Navy Seahawk helicopter for distribution to tsunami-hit coastal communities in Aceh, Indonesia.

Right: People surge toward a Navy Seahawk delivering aid to Kouati Souman, Indonesia.

PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Far right: Sean McCarthy, left, and friend Chris Miller proudly display the \$725 they collected for tsunami disaster victims on NAF Atsugi last week.

CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
Special to Stars and Stripes



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■ Pacific bases generous with aid Page 4



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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Trial for radical cleric:** Radical Muslim cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri will stand trial beginning July 4 on charges including soliciting the murder of Jews and other non-Muslims, a judge decided Tuesday.

Judge Peter Beaumont set the date at a brief hearing at London's Central Criminal Court but did not announce where the trial would be held.

Al-Masri had been scheduled to appear via a videolink from Belmarsh high-security prison in south London, but did not.

Defense lawyer Paul Hykes said the cleric was unable to walk and referred to a "past physical difficulty."

**Zimbabwe power struggle:** Six provincial leaders were suspended from their posts for five years following an unprecedented power struggle within Zimbabwe's ruling party, officials said Tuesday.

The provincial party chairmen were accused last month of opposing President Robert Mugabe's choice of second vice president, a post that could place the holder in line to succeed the aging leader.

They were initially suspended for six months pending an investigation by the party's National Disciplinary Committee.

The ruling ZANU-PF party announced Tuesday that the committee had found the officials guilty of misconduct.

**Keeping David statue clean:** Italian museum specialists might install a stream of gushing air around Michelangelo's David to protect the Renaissance masterpiece from dust tracked in by tourists, an official said Monday.

A cleaning of the 500-year-old statue was completed in May, stripping away decades of grime. Yet the glowing marble is constantly subjected to dirt from visitors' shoes and clothes.

**Myanmar political prisoners:** The main opposition party led by Aung San Suu Kyi marked Myanmar's independence day Tuesday by urging the country's military rulers to free all political prisoners, while the junta used the occasion to tell people to be loyal.

The ruling generals released 5,588 detainees from various prisons on Sunday ahead of the 57th anniversary of independence from British colonial rule. Those freed included eight members of Suu Kyi's party and nine other political prisoners.

## States

**Texas floods:** Gov. Rick Perry's request



**Pinochet indictment:** Mireya Garcia, left, and Viviana Diaz, members of a Chilean group of relatives of detained and missing, embrace each other Tuesday as they celebrate at the Supreme Court building in Santiago, Chile. Chile's Supreme Court upheld the indictment and house arrest of Gen. Augusto Pinochet for nine kidnappings and one homicide during his long regime. The court's 3-2 vote set the stage for another legal battle stemming from Pinochet's 1973-1990 rule.

for federal disaster aid to 13 Texas counties from November flooding has been rejected by federal officials.

The flood waters damaged more than 1,000 homes in Central and South Texas after a large area of Central Texas, already saturated by rain, received up to 10 inches of additional precipitation in a 24-hour period.

Perry has 30 days to appeal the Federal Emergency Management Agency's ruling last week.

**Michael Jackson:** The mother of a boy accusing Michael Jackson of child molestation tricked a weekly newspaper into running a story seeking donations for her son's cancer treatments, according to a TV show devoted to the legal woes of stars.

In 2000, the woman told a reporter for the Mid Valley News, a community newspaper that serves Southern California's suburban San Gabriel Valley, that her son was battling cancer and the editor agreed to print a story, *Celebrity Justice* reported Monday.

**Human-smuggling case:** A federal appeals court has delayed the trial of a black man charged in the United States' deadliest human-smuggling attempt so it can rule on allegations of racial bias.

Tyrone Williams is accused of driving the tractor-trailer that was abandoned in May 2003 at a truck stop about 100 miles south-

west of Houston. Seventeen immigrants were found dead inside the sealed trailer; two more died later.

**Texas execution:** Convicted killer James Porter insists he doesn't have a death wish but was volunteering for execution Tuesday evening to accept responsibility for killing another Texas prison inmate nearly five years ago.

"Stand up, face it, get over it and go on, and that's basically what I've done," Porter, 33, told *The Associated Press* recently from death row of his decision to forgo appeals and clear the way for his lethal injection.

**Housing development arson:** Five men accused of setting fire to homes under construction in an upscale Maryland development have been indicted on federal charges, prosecutors said Monday.

The Dec. 6 fires destroyed 10 houses and damaged 16 others in the Hunters Brooke development. Damage was estimated at \$10 million.

Interim U.S. Attorney Allen Loucks said a grand jury had indicted Aaron Speed, 21; Patrick Walsh, 20; Jeremy Parady, 20; Michael Everhart, 20; and Roy McCann, 22. All were charged with arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and aiding and abetting the arson.

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PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** A crowd of people desperate for relief reaches out toward a Navy SH-60B Seahawk delivering aid Monday to Kouati Souman, Indonesia. As part of the massive relief effort, U.S. military helicopters and planes are distributing aid to isolated and starving communities in Indonesia and Sri Lanka devastated by the tsunamis. Left: A woman carries away a box of relief aid as she struggles to get through the horde of people swarming the Seahawk.

# Relief crews met by scenes of despair

BY JULIANA GITTNER

Stars and Stripes

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Striking images of disaster color the experience of servicemembers working in the aftermath of last week's earthquake and deadly tsunamis in South Asia.

Flying over Indonesia in a Navy helicopter, Petty Officer 1st Class Rob Bywater saw entire towns wiped out along the coast. "When you flew over all you could see is a mosque. You literally saw hundreds of foundations and nothing else," he said.

Navy helicopter crewman Petty Officer 2nd Class David Matthews described the despair as "biblical in proportion."

On the ground in Banda Aceh, one of the hardest-hit areas, Marine Capt. Andrew Rice from the defense attaché office in Jakarta saw bodies piled along the river like floating rubble.

"It looks like a huge amount of debris and then you look closer and it's just dozens and dozens of bodies," he said. "When you're out there and see it, you just can't believe it."

About a thousand servicemem-

bers are on the ground in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka helping in the relief effort; thousands more are offshore in ships.

Air Force C-130s are moving supplies into the area so Navy SH-60B Seahawks from the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Group can ferry them to remote villages. A dozen Seahawks are moving about 25,000 pounds of relief supplies a day, bringing Indonesian medical teams into remote areas and evacuating dozens of wounded refugees, said Cmdr. Ted Williams, the executive officer of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 131, part of Carrier Air Wing 2 from the Everett, Wash.-based Lincoln.

Sailors throughout the ship volunteered to fly out to airstrips each morning to load and unload supplies onto the helicopters all day.

Aboard the helicopters, crewmen see the devastation.

"I still can't believe what happened," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Gilbert Salinas, a rescue swimmer. "You just see where towns used to be. The foundations are still there but the rest is in ruins."

headed to Thailand. It carries additional command-and-control equipment to be used in targeting more operations to help hard-to-reach tsunami victims.

"They're going down to help air crews get into less-accessible runways and more austere places such as Indonesia and Sumatra," 1st Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman, said Tuesday. "They'll help out in places where there's a smaller aircraft that's maybe damaged, or they have very minimal support facilities at that location."

In the initial days after the tragedy, Yokota dispatched a handful of TALCE

## See related stories on Pages 4-5

At several villages, helicopters dropped boxes down to surging crowds struggling to reach the aid. In one location, a man crawled through mud, gripping remaining plant roots to brace against the rotor wash so he could be first to reach a box of biscuits. "If you throw out a sandwich they'll fight over it. These people are hungry," Matthews said. "When they saw the helo, it gave them a sense of hope."

Despite constant sorties, thousands of boxes of relief aid have piled up in places such as Bangkok, Thailand, and Jakarta as well as remote airstrips, where a lack of space for aircraft, ground crew and simple pallets and forklifts has slowed the distribution process. U.S. military aircraft mingle with civilian and military planes from around the world.

"All these places are maxed out," said Air Force 1st Lt. KC

Young, a C-130 pilot with the 36th Expeditionary Airlift Wing from Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Military aircraft have begun bringing in pallets, forklifts and trucks to expedite the distribution in Indonesia, where boxes of relief supplies are piling up alongside the runway.

"It feels like the logjam is breaking open and aid is getting in," said Tim Gerhardson, assistant press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta. "We're in high gear now and everything is moving."

Military officials anticipate the relief effort will last for months. Once aid distribution is flowing consistently, sailors from the ships and civil affairs soldiers will begin reconstruction efforts, officials said.

For servicemen such as Matthews, the effort is worth long hours of constant flying.

"I don't want to go back to the ship. I wish I could fly more hours a day, there's so much to be done."

## U.S. may add copters

The U.S. military might double its number of helicopters in tsunami-

mi-stricken areas, according to Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command.

There are currently 46 military helicopters in the area, according to staffers who spoke with Stripes after Fargo briefed Pentagon reporters on Tuesday.

Fargo was asked if the U.S. planned to move more helicopters in, given their obvious advantages.

"I would say probably double the number we have right now. ... Just based on the flow that I've looked at, and if we find that we can't address those concerns that we have, then we'll reach farther."

Fargo said that based on the U.S. military's recent disaster response in the Philippines and its 1991 experiences with humanitarian operations in Bangladesh, officials knew that helicopters, more than any other transport, are the most useful machines for these kinds of situations.

"A key lesson from all of these events was the value of helicopter vertical lift," Fargo said.

Jim Schulz and Lisa Burgess contributed to this story.

E-mail Juliana Gittner at: gittnerj@poststar.com

# Yokota sends teams to tackle hard-to-reach areas

BY VINCE LITTLE

AND DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

Pacific-based U.S. military forces added servicemembers and equipment Tuesday to support troops already dispatched to South Asia for tsunami-relief efforts.

Officials at Yokota Air Base, Japan, added another piece to their contribution, as a small mission-support team left Tuesday on a C-17.

A Tanker Airlift Control Element, commonly called TALCE, attached to the 613th Contingency Response Group, is

teams to Utapao, Thailand. They've been helping C-130 aircrews get relief supplies to different spots around South Asia.

"Without the TALCE teams, we wouldn't be able to distribute them as well. They're a very integral part of what we do," Comer said.

Tuesday's deployment brings Yokota's total tsunami relief force commitment to about 190 troops. The 613th Contingency Response Group is a tenant organization on base.

No humanitarian-relief supplies were taken down on the latest C-17 mission, Comer said. Rather, the equipment hauled by the team will help U.S. forces function

more efficiently at Utapao and other forward-operating locations in the region.

"We'll continue to provide support whenever called upon," he said. "It's a changing environment right now. We're in a period where we're looking at things and wanting for them to come to us. But we're ready to supply any help to anyone who asks for it as quickly as possible."

Also Tuesday, the WestPac Express, the high-speed catamaran under contract to the IIICQ Marine Expeditionary Force, left Okinawa to be used to shuttle disaster relief supplies between countries hard-hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunamis.

SEE TEAMS, PAGE 4

# Donations flowing from Pacific bases

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — While relief agencies geared up for massive humanitarian assistance for Asian communities laid waste by savage tsunamis Christmas weekend, many notable individual efforts also sprung up on U.S. bases in Japan.

At Atsugi Naval Air Facility, two young brothers teamed with friends to collect \$725 in spare change for the American Red Cross, while on Okinawa an Exchange New Car Sales saleswoman began a food and clothing drive in conjunction with base chapels that covered all Marine installations on the island.

"Americans out here are very charitable, very interested in giving and caring about the needs of people here in Asia," said Navy Chaplain Steven Moses, acting base chaplain for Marine bases in Japan.

"This is something we usually do every year when there are exercises in the Philippines," he said. "We collected about 5,000 pounds of clothing and food last year for that, but what we've received already for tsunami relief is far more."

He estimated about 7,000 pounds of clothing, food and other items already have been collected on Okinawa. On Tuesday, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Ginowan delivered about 10 vanloads of goods to the Camp Foster Chapel Annex, then stayed to sort and box the mountain of clothing already being stored at the center for eventual delivery to the disaster areas.

"The outpouring is fantastic," Moses said. "Pepsi Cola donated three pallets of bottled water and the local VFW is bringing in a few hundred buckets for water."

Moses said he is coordinating with the III Marine Expeditionary Force to load the do-

nations onto planes bound for the disaster zones whenever space is available.

The collection got an early start due to the efforts of Natalie De Vito, a saleswoman for Exchange New Car Sales on Camp Courtney.

"The Tuesday after the tsunami I called around to see what was being done about getting relief supplies to the victims and found nothing had really been done yet, so I got permission from my boss to use our office on Courtney as a drop-off point for donations," De Vito said.

She coordinated her effort with the chaplain's office on Camp Courtney.

"I knew there would be a lot of people donating money but felt that since planes from Okinawa were going to start flying out of here for disaster relief soon, we should have canned, food, bottled water, clothing, whatever we could right away," De Vito said.

"My feeling was that money would be helpful, but what were the tsunami survivors going to do until the funds could be raised and spent on what they needed?" she said. "They needed some immediate relief."

At 11 a.m. Wednesday, she said, the Courtney Chapel phoned to say that a plane was to fly out of Okinawa that night and that any items dropped at the chapel by 1 p.m. could be on the plane.

"I made 800 copies of a flyer and passed them out at the PX and post office, empha-

sizing the 1 p.m. deadline," she said. At 12:45 p.m. her husband rushed to the chapel to drop off a truckload of donated items.

"He told me the parking lot was packed, that there were a bunch of people coming in with bags of goods," De Vito said. "The chaplain later told me they got a ton — 2,000 pounds — of items on that plane."

The chapels since have taken over the collection effort. On Tuesday they announced they needed clean clothing, blankets, towels, plastic water buckets and pots and pans. They also are calling for "hygiene kits" consisting of toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, shampoo, soap, washcloths and baby wipes.

The collection points are at the chapels on Camps Courtney, Foster and Kinsler, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

At Yokota Air Base, Japan, officials are asking community members interested in donating relief supplies to contact the Red Cross or other local support agency.

"We've gotten a lot of calls lately from people wondering how they can get relief items and other donations on our flights down to the region," 1st Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman, said Tuesday. "It's not that we don't want to provide help, we just don't have that in place at the moment."

For that reason, some other installations and agencies are accepting monetary dona-

tions only.

Chaplain James Cutter, 18th Wing Chaplain on Kadena Air Base, said he is directing people who inquire about donations to write a check to the chapel's "Tithes and Offerings Fund." Donations will be forwarded to the International Red Cross, he said.

John Valentine, station manager for the American Red Cross on Kadena Air Base, said he is directing people to go to the organization's Web site at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and click on the "donate now" button.

"We've gotten quite a few calls," he said. "People are really interested in helping out."

But some people don't have credit cards, like Sean and Seamus McCarthy, ages 12 and 16 respectively, on Atsugi.

They were upset at what they were seeing on television and wanted to do something to help," said their mother, Carolyn, in a telephone interview Tuesday. "So they came up with the idea of getting a couple of coffee cans and collecting for the Red Cross."

Sean and friend Chris Miller spent two days collecting money at the base exchange and commissary and Seamus McCarthy collected funds one night at the base theater.

"I am very proud of them," their mom said. "They asked me if they could do it and I told them to go for it. They just kept on doing it. I told them, 'You guys are the bomb!'"

McCarthy said the two boys and an older brother have engaged in past community service work, such as neighborhood clean-up projects. "But it's never been anything like this," she said. "This was a biggie."

Little's contributor to this report.

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## Teams: Catamaran from Okinawa's III MEF joins relief effort

FROM TEAMS, PAGE 3

The ship was headed for Uta-pao, Thailand, the staging area for distributing disaster relief supplies and personnel along the ravaged coasts of Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, according to Staff Sgt. Suki Forbes, Okinawa Marine spokeswoman.

The WestPac Express is scheduled to arrive in Thailand later this week, Forbes said.

"Supplies aboard the vessel in-

clude military equipment, food, clothes and clothing," she said in a news release. "After dropping off supplies in Thailand, the WestPac Express will serve as a shuttle for military equipment and personnel" among Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Meanwhile, the Okinawa-based 3rd Marine Division announced the formation of Combined Support Group-Indonesia to provide humanitarian assis-

tance and disaster relief to Indonesia's Aceh province, the area hardest hit by the earthquake and tsunamis. Whole villages along the northwestern coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, the area closest to the magnitude 9.0-earthquake's epicenter, were totally destroyed.

"The mission of CSG-I, led by Brig. Gen. Christian R. Cowdry, is to support the government of Indonesia-led response to save lives

and mitigate human suffering," a Marine news release stated.

CSG-I is coordinating U.S. relief efforts through the USS Abraham Lincoln. As of Tuesday, the sailors aboard the aircraft carrier have delivered 110,000 pounds of food, water and medical supplies, and conducted more than 45 medical evacuation flights, the release stated.

The Marines and sailors of CSG-I are setting up a command

post in the northern Sumatra town of Medan, where they are assessing the situation, according to Col. Drew Bennett, CSG-I chief of staff. "We expect to see an increase in our operational capabilities within the next few days as we get more units established in the region," Bennett stated in the release.

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# Cows on runway slow aid efforts

BY LELY T. DJUHARI  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The main airport at Indonesia's tsunami-battered Sumatra island was closed for much of the day Tuesday after a relief plane hit a herd of cows, hampering the world's still-fragile efforts to get aid to victims of the disaster.

In a startling tale of survival, an Indonesian man swept off the shore by last week's tsunami was found afloat on tree branches and debris, the second person to be found alive on the high seas days after the disaster, officials said.

World leaders, meanwhile, headed to southern Asia to get a

firsthand glimpse of the damage from the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami that killed at least 139,580 people. Secretary of State Colin Powell — who was in Thailand on Tuesday — pledged America's full support, and a donor conference was scheduled Thursday in Indonesia's capital.

Powell said Tuesday the outpouring of American aid and humanitarian help in the region devastated by the tsunami may also help Muslim nations see the United States in a better light.

"What it does in the Muslim world, the rest of the world is giving an opportunity to see American generosity, American values in action," Powell said after meeting with Hassan Wirayuda, his Indonesian counterpart.

Relief workers said they expect the death toll to soar by tens of thousands because surveys of the western coast of Sumatra, which was closest to the quake, show it was hit much harder than previously thought.

In Washington, the State Department said 16 Americans — eight in Thailand and eight in Sri Lanka — died in the disaster. The number of U.S. fatalities had stood at 15 for several days.

Rushing aid to anyone still alive has proved difficult, with roads and sea jetties washed away.

"We have a logistical nightmare," U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland told NBC's "Today" show.

"I would say that tens of thousands of people have received no relief," he said, adding that the outpouring of aid has "been just phenomenal."

Planes were temporarily grounded Tuesday by the closure of the small airport in Banda Aceh, the main city on the island's northern tip.

The flying was left to helicopters, mainly based on U.S. Navy vessels anchored offshore, to drop food parcels.

No one was hurt when a Boeing 737 relief cargo plane hit cows after it landed at the airport, but the closure of the runway highlighted the vulnerability of the relief effort as waves of aid began pouring into Sumatra.

Despite the awesome power of the waves, some victims still managed to survive after more than a week with little or no food or shelter.

## U.S. military aid

The U.S. military is providing assistance to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in South Asia. Here's a snapshot of U.S. military operations so far:

### Personnel

There are 13,003 U.S. Navy, Marine, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard servicemen involved in providing relief support.

Currently on ground: 1402

Thailand 1001

Sri Lanka 167

Indonesia 127

Malaysia 107

Currently afloat: 11,601

### Ships

13 U.S. Navy ships

6 Maritime prepositioning ships

1 U.S. Coast Guard vessel

### Aircraft

16 C-130 medium lift cargo aircraft

9 P-3 reconnaissance aircraft

4 KC-135 medium lift/refueling aircraft

46 helicopters are in the region

17 helicopters from USS Abraham

Lincoln Carrier Strike Group

25 helicopters from USS

Borromini Expeditionary

Strike Group

4 land-based helicopters

### Level of effort to date:

At least 460,000 pounds of relief

supplies delivered:

■ 316,664 pounds water

■ 135,102 pounds food

■ 84,466 pounds medical supplies (nonmedicated)

Source: U.S. Department of Defense Stars and Stripes

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# DOD issues new sexual assault policy

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Department issued a new sexual assault policy Tuesday that will replace the services' four ways of handling such attacks with a common standard, as well as offer more confidentiality for the victims, officials said.

"We are taking fragmented programs and putting them into one cohesive program," Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David Chu told Pentagon reporters Tuesday.

Chu said the new policy is made up of 11 directives ranging from how complaints are investigated to better care for victims.

One key directive within the

new policy, Chu said, is the creation at every installation and deployed location of a "Sexual Assault Response Coordinator," or SARC, who will be responsible for monitoring every report of assault from start to finish, as well as informing victims of their options for care and possible prosecution of their attackers.

Another key directive, said Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, who heads the joint sexual assault prevention task force, is "training, training, training" throughout servicemembers' careers.

But ultimately, the key will be making servicemembers feel comfortable about reporting sexual crimes, Chu said.

Fear that reporting sexual assault will damage reputations and

careers "is a proven barrier that victims carry," Chu said.

Victims also fear repercussions for violations they may have committed before or during an assault, such as excess drinking, Chu acknowledged.

"To the extent possible, commanders should delay the determination of disciplinary actions for a victim's collateral misconduct related to the circumstances of an alleged sexual assault" until the final disposition is completed, the directive says.

The 2005 defense budget authorization ordered the Defense Department to develop and deliver a new sexual assault prevention policy by Jan. 1.

In response to that order, the policy's 11 directives have been

sent to Congress and to all four services, Chu said.

Now it will be up to a Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, which has members from all the services, to flesh out and implement all the directives, McClain said.

Sexual assault in the military has been a growing issue since the war on terror began; reports came in that women in Iraq and Kuwait were being assaulted by other deployed servicemembers.

The Defense Department "understands our traditional system does not afford" sexual assault victims with the care and treatment they need, Chu said.

Last February, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered the Defense Department to conduct a 90-day study on how sexual

assault victims are treated in the military.

The report, released in April, recommended the creation of a single place within DOD that would oversee sexual assault response.

The result was the Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, which developed a new policy "that will ensure ... that the same support system so all assault cases are responded to appropriately and in a timely manner," Chu said.

But it might take several years for all the policies to be implemented, according to McClain.

"There is no silver bullet," she told reporters Tuesday. "It will take time" to implement all the directives.

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## Kuwait arrests up to 4 soldiers for allegedly planning attacks

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait has arrested up to four members of its armed forces who are suspected of plotting to attack allied troops, a Kuwaiti military spokesman said Monday.

Kuwait has witnessed a number of small-scale attacks on U.S. troops and civilians in the past three years. But this is the first time in many years that serving members of the armed forces have been detained on such charges.

"The security apparatus in Military Intelligence is investigating some officers following information that they intended to work against friendly troops," Brig. Youssef al-Mullah said.

"They are fewer than five," al-Mullah said, adding they were arrested late last week. "A number have been released after investigation."

He would not say how many remained in military

custody. Nor would he identify the troops they were suspected of plotting against. But the targeted troops are believed to be American.

The United States stations several thousand troops in Kuwait and used the small country to launch its March 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Kuwait continues to serve as a staging ground for U.S. troops and equipment going into Iraq.

"It is just an investigation," al-Mullah said. "The military judicial proceedings will take their course."

Al-Mullah gave no further details.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait warned American citizens Dec. 15 that it had "credible information that terrorist groups are developing near-term plans for attacks against unspecified targets in Kuwait."

The embassy urged nationals to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity.

Kuwait has stepped up its internal security in recent days, stationing armed military and police vehicles at street junctions, hotels and embassies.

## Big-ticket programs may be cut

BY PETER PAE

AND MARK MAZZETTI

Los Angeles Times

Pentagon planners are proposing deep cuts in Northrup Grumman Corp.'s multi-billion-dollar shipbuilding business as part of a major rollback in defense spending, analysts and government officials said Monday.

But the Los Angeles-based defense contractor could escape a far more devastating blow, because several of its large weapons programs appear to have been spared, or even enhanced, by the budget planners.

The cuts were outlined in an internal Pentagon document that proposes slashing the military's budget request by \$30 billion over the next six years. The White House, faced with mounting budget deficits and the growing costs of the war in Iraq, has



U.S. Air Force officials and Lockheed Martin workers look at a new F/A-22 Raptor stealth air dominance fighter at the aircraft plant in Marietta, Ga., in October. Analysts said Monday that the Pentagon will likely downsize the Lockheed-built F/A-22 Raptor program.

pressed the military services to curtail spending on weapons systems already years in development. The cutbacks would be the first since the current military buildup — one of the largest ever — began four years ago.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are paid for by emergency spending bills and wouldn't be affected by the Pentagon curbs. The Bush administration soon will present Congress with the war-spending bill for 2005, which several sources said could total approximately \$100 billion.

Most of the proposed reductions in the Pentagon document are related to big-ticket weapons first envisioned during the Cold War, such as radar-evading fighter jets and nuclear submarines, according to Pentagon and defense industry sources.

According to several sources, the cutbacks would hit Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed Martin Corp. the hardest. The Pentagon wants to halt purchases of Lockheed's C-130J cargo planes and slash the number of F/A-22 fighter jets it buys.

## CNO wants more skilled, efficient Navy workforce

Clark releases annual report outlining goals

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark said he wants to create a more skilled and efficient naval workforce but insists that doesn't mean a 1990s-style drawdown.

"We will invest whatever it takes for the growth and development of the people we need but not one thing dime for people we don't need," he said.

"Sixty-plus percent of the resources we have are going to pay for people. ... If you jam more people into the task, and don't change the output, you have added to the cost and you're less productive."

The comments came as Clark released his annual report outlining goals for the Navy, which includes recruiting more college-educated people, providing more training to sailors and Navy civilians, and better coordinating the responsibilities of the active and reserve components.

Clark said he does not anticipate shrinking the number of Navy personnel to create a more efficient service, but did say he's "on a campaign to get rid of all the not-rated people in the Navy."

Those not-rated sailors, who often enter the service from jobs like firefighters or police officers, lack any specific skill set, according to CNO spokesman Cmdr.

Denny Moynihan. Clark said in the future every sailor should have a clear career path and set of desirable skills, like a major corporation would demand of its workforce.

"I don't want people to view this as a drawdown because this isn't a drawdown thing," he said. "This is a run the company smarter thing."

Navy officials over the next five months will develop a more comprehensive report on improving the service's overall skills and manpower.

Clark also plans on conducting a new Sea Swap experiment this year, despite criticism over the Navy's decision to rotate crews on the USS Fletcher while stationed in Western Australia instead of returning the ship to the United States.

"Leading change is one of the hardest things in the world to do," he said. "I expect people to react to something like Sea Swap, because it's change. ... But this is a very effective way to operate the force."

Clark would not comment on rumors that the Navy will suffer heavy cuts in the Pentagon's 2006 budget proposal, and would not speculate as to how the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure would change the service. ...

But he did say officials will look for more cooperation between Navy and Marine operations, especially in areas where they have overlapping missions.

Clark's report also set goals of reducing drug and alcohol incidents among servicemembers by 25 percent this year and establishing housing for sailors in port by 2008.

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## Iraq drowning case

FORT HOOD, Texas — A six-man jury was selected Tuesday for the military trial of a soldier accused in the drowning death of an Iraqi civilian, and opening statements were scheduled to begin later in the afternoon.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, of the 4th Infantry Division, is charged with involuntary manslaughter, conspiracy, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators.

Perkins, 33, and Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville are accused of ordering soldiers to push two Iraqis into the Tigris River in January 2004 for violating curfew. Zaidoun Fadel Hassoun, 19, allegedly drowned. Saville's attorneys contend he safely reached shore.

## SEALS face hearings

SAN DIEGO — One is accused of punching an Iraqi prisoner. Another faces allegations that he kicked, choked and humiliated captives.

Both Navy lieutenants are facing Article 32 hearings this week. The first hearing was set to begin Tuesday, the second Thursday.

The officer scheduled to appear at Tuesday's hearing was accused of punching Manadel al-Jamadi and allowing other Navy personnel to abuse the prisoner, according to a charge sheet released by the Navy.

From wire reports

# Insurgents kill top Iraqi official

## Governor of Baghdad province shot; number of U.S. wounded passes 10,000

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents assassinated the highest-ranking Iraqi official in eight months Tuesday, gunning down the governor of Baghdad province and six of his bodyguards, and a suicide truck bomber killed 10 people at an Interior Ministry command headquarters, the latest in a string of violence ahead of Jan. 30 elections.

Five American troops were slain in three separate attacks, officials said, in the deadliest day for the U.S. military in Iraq since a suicide bombing at a mess tent in Mosul on Dec. 21 killed 22 people, including 14 U.S. soldiers and three American contractors.

The number of U.S. troops wounded in Iraq since the start of the war in March 2003 has surpassed 10,000, the Pentagon said Tuesday in a delayed update of its casualty data. Of the 10,252 total wounded, the Pentagon said, 4,596 were unable to return to duty and 4,856 sustained injuries that were light enough to allow them to resume their duties. The total is normally reported each week, but the Pentagon had not updated the figures since Dec. 22.

On Tuesday, the militant group of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed responsibility for killing Gov. Ali al-Haidari and his bodyguards, according to a statement posted on a Web site known for carrying such claims.

"We tell every traitor and supporter of the Jews and Christians that this is your fate," the statement said. Its authenticity could not immediately be verified.

Iraq's insurgents repeatedly have targeted government officials and security forces, saying they are allies of the U.S.-led coalition.

More interim Iraqi government officials are saying the elections should be postponed to ensure a higher Sunni voter turnout, a sign the ongoing campaign of violence might be taking its toll on Iraq resolve. The United States and Iraq's electoral commission, however, insist that voting take place as scheduled.

"So far, there is no postponement ... of the elections, and they will be held on Jan. 30," Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zibari told reporters. He acknowledged the vote will "take place under very difficult circumstances, which will be a big challenge for all Iraqis and their government."

Al-Haidari's three-vehicle convoy was passing through Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Hurriyah when unidentified gunmen opened fire, said the chief of his security detail, who asked to be identified only as Maj. Mazen.

"They came from different directions and opened fire at us," Mazen said, reached on al-Haidari's cell phone.

Al-Haidari was the target of another assassination attempt last year that killed two of his bodyguards. He is the highest-ranking Iraqi official killed since the former president of the now defunct Governing Council — Abdel-Zahraa Othman, better known as Izzadine Saleem — was assassinated in May.

Al-Haidari worked closely with the U.S.-led multinational forces on rebuilding the capital.

He had not always sided with the Americans, however, demanding in October that the United States leave the Green Zone, the fortified home of the U.S. Embassy and the interior Iraqi government.

On Nov. 1, al-Haidari's deputy, Hatim Kamil, was shot to death on his way to work. The Ansar al-Sunnah Army militant group claimed responsibility for that attack.

In the American deaths, a roadside bomb killed three U.S. soldiers in Baghdad, and a soldier and a Marine were killed in other attacks outside the capital, the U.S. military said.

The three soldiers killed in the capital were with Task Force Baghdad, and two soldiers were wounded in the attack, which occurred about 11 a.m., the military said.

Elsewhere, a roadside bomb attack killed one 1st Infantry Division soldier and wounded another near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad.

A U.S. Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action in western Iraq's restive Anbar province, which includes the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

Also Tuesday, a tanker truck packed with explosives detonated near an Interior Ministry command headquarters in western Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding about 60, the Interior Ministry said.

A suicide driver rammed the truck at a police checkpoint near the headquarters, which is also near an entrance of the Green Zone.

Eight Iraqi commands and two civilians were killed, the Interior Ministry said.

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# Army to send beefed-up armored vehicles to Iraq

BY JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Army, beset with complaints that its troops are going into combat in inadequately armored Humvees, will send an older and less used class of armored personnel carriers to Iraq after spending \$84 million to add armor to them.

These vehicles, both veteran warhorses, are the M113A3 armored personnel carrier and the M577 command post carrier. Both will be tougher and safer than newly armored Humvees.

Army officials who pushed hard over the last two years for getting the M113 into duty in Iraq said it was more useful, cheaper and easier to transport than the Army's new wheeled Stryker armored vehicle, which also is in use in Iraq. The Army and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld sent themselves at the center of a firestorm last month over the pace of adding armor to the Humvee, a small transport vehicle that's been pressed into service in Iraq as a combat vehicle. Critics have charged that even with armor the Humvee is too easily destroyed

by rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices.

An Army representative, who didn't want to be identified, said Monday that \$84 million was being spent to add armor to 734 M113A3s and M577s. The Army and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, that includes hardened steel side armor, a "slat armor" cage that bolts to the side armor and protects against RPGs, anti-mine armor on the bottom and a new transparent, bullet-proof gun shield on the top that vastly improves gunners' vision.

The M577, nicknamed the "high-top shoe" for its tall, ungain-

ly silhouette, will get only slat armor and anti-mine armor. Its high sides can't take the steel armor without making the vehicle unstable and even more vulnerable to roll over.

The slat armor essentially is a metal cage designed to detonate RPGs before they breach the steel armor and the light aluminum wall.

The armor kits will be produced in the United States, the Army representative said, and installed in Kuwait.

The representative said the M113 upgrade was requested by

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, the ground commander in Iraq, and approved by Gen. George Casey, the commander of multinational forces in Iraq.

The M113 typically carries a driver, a commander and 11 infantry soldiers. It can be fitted with a 50-caliber machine gun or a MK19 40 mm grenade launcher. The M113A3 version, introduced in 1987, has a bigger turbo-charged diesel engine, an improved transmission, steering and braking packages, and inside liners to suppress splash, the superheated molten metal produced by RPG and tank-round hits.

## 31st MEU members work to cut off insurgents' aid

### 900 Okinawa-based Marines among those tasked with dismantling fighters' support system along borders

BY JOSEPH GORDONO

Stars and Stripes

AL ASAD, Iraq — Since arriving in Iraq last fall, the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit has undertaken one of the broadest missions — both in terms of responsibilities and geography — of any U.S. military unit in the country.

The unit's area of operations covers 33,000 square miles, stretching west from Ramadi to the borders of Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Its missions include tracking down insurgent fighters, securing borders, stabilizing the region ahead of national elections, providing air support, securing supply routes and patrolling the Euphrates River with a small-craft company, among others.

"The key is to disrupt the insurgents' flow. I view it as keeping them from crossing the Euphrates into the center of gravity: Baghdad, Ramadi and Fallujah," said Col. W. Lee Miller, 31st MEU commander.

One of the MEU's toughest assignments, Miller said, is patrolling and securing the vast, desert

borders. The Marines work with and train Iraqi border patrols, including military and police units. In addition to insurgents, the region is rife with trade and smuggling routes that have existed for thousands of years.

But the mission is not to stop, for example, nomadic shepherds from moving their flocks across the border.

"The things we do look for are weapons, money and military-age males who have no business being in this country," Miller said. "My job is to stop as much of that as possible."

This week, Marines from the 31st MEU targeted a series of what they call "transient camps" for foreign fighters sneaking into Iraq. The Marines arrested several suspects, seized weapons and large amounts of cash, and shut down suspected insurgent safe houses.

"The word is out that they're going to be cold and miserable. Those guys who want to get their jihad on like it's spring break won't want to do that now," Miller said. "We are better trained and more motivated. The [insurgents] will eventually be eliminated as a

group that can disrupt the Iraqi government and Iraqi people."

The 31st MEU, which includes 900 Okinawa-based Marines and some 2,000 others from California and Hawaii, has learned just how volatile their region can be.

"The atmospherics can change in 12 to 24 hours," Miller said. "For 38 years, the people here lived under a dictatorial leader. The population knows that and lived under his ruthlessness for most of their lives. It's going to take a lot of time to change."

But Miller says he sees encouraging signs that lasting progress has been made. At vehicle checkpoints just after New Year's, Marine civil affairs units spoke with local residents to gauge their feelings on the situation.

While some said the insurgency and continued fighting were beginning to take a psychological toll, others reported that local religious leaders were starting to press support for U.S.-led forces.

"That is the change in atmospherics that I wanted. These people realize the best way is to support the multinational forces unit they can get their own security forces on their feet. And every day, I see positive changes in the Iraqi National Guard," he said.

"I attribute that to rooting out the bad guys in the area. Rarely a day goes by that we don't have a success out here, whether big or small."

Indeed, the 31st MEU has captured more than two dozen fighters in recent weeks and seized several large caches of weapons.

But those successes have not come without a heavy price. Since arriving in Iraq last fall, the 31st MEU has suffered 21 combat deaths and nearly 150 Marines have been wounded in action.

Gunnery Sgt. Troy Bruss, 31st MEU chief of operations, said Marines here face a full range of attacks: direct small-arms fire, indi-



PHOTOS BY J.D. CRESS/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Mustaf al-Fiyar, a member of Iraqi Specialized Special Forces, stands roadside security with Marines of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit during a daytime patrol through the small Iraqi town of Ar Rutbah on Dec. 4.

rect fire such as mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, car bombs, suicide attacks and land mines.

In some areas, the form of attacks depends "on what part of the month it is," said Bruss, a 39-year-old from Bondeud, Wis.

The Marines, living at relatively Spartan camps in largely barren areas, have become used to 18-hour duty days, which often stretch into two days without sleep.

"They are doing a great job. We can't ask anything more of them," Bruss said.

The unit has had its Iraq deployment extended once, now putting it on schedule to return to Okinawa around March.

"It has been an honor and is an honor to serve with these men and women. They are extremely selfless and believe in what they are doing. Not one has ever dropped his or her pack," Miller said, emphasizing the importance of building on the work done so far.

"If we let our guard down, it can change in a matter of 24 hours. We are obsessed with not losing the positive ground that we have gained since getting here."

E-mail Joseph Gordo: joseph.gordo@starsstripes.osd.mil



Marine Cpl. Timothy Failey, a CH-46 Sea Knight crew chief with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, scans the skies during a flight over the Iraqi desert last month.

**“Those guys who want to get their jihad on like it’s spring break won’t want to do that now.”**

Col. W. Lee Miller  
31st MEU commander

One route has earned the nickname "Mine Alley" because of the insurgents' tactic of digging up and reburying land mines at different locations, sometimes even triggering them from under paved roads. Another intersection is called "IED Corner," using the now-ubiquitous military acronym for improvised explosive device.



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## IN THE STATES

## Retired officers criticize nomination of Gonzales

BY DAN EGGEN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A dozen high-ranking retired military officers took the unusual step this week of signing a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee expressing "deep concern" over the nomination of White House counsel Alberto R. Gonzales as attorney general, marking a rare military foray into the debate over a civilian post.

The group includes retired Army Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The officers are one of several groups to separately urge the Senate to sharply question Gonzales during a confirmation hearing Thursday about his role in shaping legal policies on torture and interrogation methods.

Although the GOP-controlled Senate is expected to confirm Gonzales to succeed Attorney General John Ashcroft, some Democrats have vowed to question him aggressively amid con-

tinuing revelations of abuses of military detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The letter signed by the retired officers, compiled by the group Human Rights First and sent to the committee's leadership Monday night, criticizes Gonzales for his role in reviewing and approving a series of memorandums arguing, among other things, that the United States could lawfully ignore portions of the Geneva Conventions and that some forms of torture "may be justified" in the war on terror.

"Today, it is clear that these operations have fostered greater animosity toward the United States, undermined our intelligence gathering efforts and added to the risks facing our troops serving around the world," the officers wrote, referring to the Bush administration's detention and interrogation policies.

Although it steps short of directly opposing Gonzales' nomination, the three-page letter contains sharp criticism of his deci-

sions related to military legal issues and argues that he is "on the wrong side of history."

"Repeatedly in our past, the United States has confronted foes that, at the time they emerged, posed threats of a scope or nature unlike any we had previously faced," the letter reads. "But we have been far more steadfast in the past in keeping faith with our national commitment to the rule of law."

In addition to Shalikashvili, other prominent signatories to the letter include retired Marine Gen. Joseph P. Hoar, former chief of the Central Command; former Air Force Chief of Staff Merrill A. McPeak; and Lt. Gen. Claudia J. Kennedy, the Army's first female three-star general. Several, including Shalikashvili, supported the failed presidential candidacy of Democrat John F. Kerry.

Richard H. Kohn, a military historian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who specializes in military-civilian affairs, said the letter is extremely rare, if not unprecedented.

"I don't know of any precedent for something like this," Kohn said. "A retired group of military officers bands together to virtually oppose a Cabinet nominee? And a non-military one? It is highly unusual, to say the least."



Gonzales



Shalikashvili

## Details of \$100M clergy deal unsealed

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Details of a record \$100 million settlement between alleged victims of priest sexual abuse and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange were unsealed, with church leaders saying it would make the diocese a "holier, humbler and healthier church."

Alleged victims sobbed and hugged Monday as they spoke publicly about the deal that was nearly two years in the making. Some thanked Bishop Ted D. Brown, who as head of the diocese negotiated what has become the largest clergy abuse settlement in history.

The settlement was reached Dec. 2, but was under a court seal for a month as the parties signed off on it. It surpasses the \$85 million the Archdiocese of Boston agreed to pay \$52 plaintiffs in 2002.

The settlement resolves 90 lawsuits against the diocese that included allegations against 31 priests, 10 lay personnel, one religious brother and two nuns.

"Today, we can stand and we can say, I forgive you. And of course I do, of course we forgive you," said Mark Curran, one of those whose lawsuits against the diocese led to the settlement.

Payouts were based on the length and severity of abuse and other factors, but how much each plaintiff is getting remains confidential.

Half of the payout will come from the diocese and the other half will be paid by its eight insurance carriers. The agreement also calls for the release of nearly all confidential documents from diocesan personnel files of the accused after a judge's review; attorneys estimated the first records could be released within two months.

Some 800 clergy abuse lawsuits are still pending statewide.

broadcast of "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno."

"Happy (expletive) New Year, Tommy!" Neil said to dominate Tommy Lee shortly after midnight, USA Today reported Monday. The remark was carried to viewers on the East Coast but was edited out before it was broadcast in the West.

## Man convicted in boot camp death

PHOENIX — The director of a boot camp for troubled youths was convicted of manslaughter Monday in the death of a 14-year-old camper who collapsed in the triple-digit desert heat.

Charles Long, 59, a former Marine, was charged with second-degree murder in the July 2001 death of Anthony Haynes, but the jury found him guilty of the lesser charge of reckless manslaughter.

The camp was shut down after the teen's death.

From The Associated Press

## Nichols' defense costs released

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma taxpayers spent almost \$4.2 million to provide a defense for Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, paying for such things as books, seminars, lawn care, coffee sweetener and an alarm system. Details of the expenditures had been previously sealed by court order, but were opened Monday at the request of The Oklahoma, The Tulsa World and The Associated Press. Court-appointed defense attorney Brian Hermanson did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

## Cure curses, no one complains

LOS ANGELES — NBC hasn't received any calls about the F-word that Miley Cyrus' Vince Neil dropped during the live New Year's Eve

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TERM 4: 12/6/04-3/1/05

# California suffers from storm aftereffects



A truck is stopped Monday due to heavy snow on Interstate 5, California's primary north-south route, near Gorman. Heavy snow shut down the major highway north of Los Angeles and slowed post-holiday travel in the Sierra Nevada as Californians endured a second week of stormy weather. Some mountain areas saw 9 feet of snow.

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Ice and snow kept California's heavily traveled main north-south highway closed for a second day Tuesday as residents awaited the next storm in the parade of wild weather that has hammered the state and plowed eastward into the Rockies and Plains.

The storms that started just over a week ago have piled snow 9 feet deep on higher spots in California's Sierra Nevada, soaked Los Angeles with record rainfall, caused mudslides and knocked out power to thousands of customers.

A 40-mile stretch of Interstate 5 remained shut Tuesday north of Los Angeles because as much as 2 feet of snow had fallen on top of a layer of ice at Tejon Pass, elevation about 4,200 feet, as the California Highway Patrol said. The CHP closed the freeway early Monday and there was no immediate indication Tuesday when it might be reopened.

Up to 3 feet of snow had fallen since early Monday in the mountains north of Los Angeles.

The storms were sparked by an extensive low-pressure system that edged down from the Gulf of Alaska and remained parked off the Pacific Northwest coast. The latest front was expected to linger through Tuesday and another system was to move across the state later this week.

Authorities reported one weather-related death Monday — a man killed when his car went off a road and slammed into a tree. Last week, five deaths were blamed on the weather in California, along with two others in Arizona and two in Colorado.

As rain spread eastward from California, one man died Tuesday in central Arizona's swollen Tonto Creek near the small community of Puncin Creek, 40 miles northeast of Phoenix, and a second man was missing.



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<b>THAI AIRWAYS BANGKOK</b> 12 days <b>\$48,000</b> \$436 1/10-1/21	<b>DIRECT SINGAPORE</b> 10 days <b>\$37,500</b> \$341 1/16-2/10	<b>DIRECT HONG KONG</b> 10 days <b>\$33,500</b> \$305 1/18-1/31 SUN-WED	<b>SHANGHAI</b> 10 days <b>\$51,000</b> \$482 1/9-1/31	<b>DENPASAR</b> Continental Airlines 12 days <b>\$49,500</b> \$450 1/10-1/31 SUN-TUE, THU	<b>SEOUL</b> 7 days <b>\$21,800</b> \$198 1/11-1/31 SUN-THU

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# FACES

## Ferguson takes over talk show

Craig Ferguson has something that will make his late-night TV talk show distinct — his Scottish accent.

Now the new host of CBS' "The Late Late Show," does he plan on making changes to the format? "I am going to stay with the format as it is for now and experiment with it gradually. I think you have to know your way 'round an engine before you start dismantling it," he said.



Ferguson

Ferguson is best known for "The Drew Carey Show," where he played Drew Carey's boss.

He is replacing Craig Kilborn, who stepped down last August.

## Murray defends defensiveness

Bill Murray gets defensive when he told he has a reputation for being difficult.

"If it keeps obnoxious people away, that's fine," he tells *Time* magazine. "It makes me think of that line 'you catch more flies with honey than vinegar.' People say this to you with a straight face, and I always say, 'Who Wants Flies?'"

While on the set of Jim Jarmusch's new film, Murray, star of "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou," got into a quarrel with the location manager when he arrived at a rented house for a scene with child actors and discovered there was no heat. When he started a fire in the fireplace, the location manager told him to stop.

"Who are you?" Murray said he told her. "She said, 'I'm locations.' I said, 'Well, if locations had done their job and made sure it was warm enough for these people, we wouldn't be lighting a fire in the fireplace.'"

## Actress feels 'lucky' about role

After her Oscar-winning performance in 1999's "Boys Don't Cry," Hilary Swank

thought the world was her oyster.

Since then, her films have included "The Affair of the Necklace" and the HBO drama "Iron Jawed Angels." None were as well received as "Boys Don't Cry."

Now she is earning critical raves for her role as boxer Maggie Fitzgerald in Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby."

"Not to put down any of these other movies I've done [since "Boys Don't Cry"], but they weren't meaty like this," Swank told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in Sunday's editions. "I feel really lucky to have found two amazing roles before I hit 30."

## Taking love interest to screen

Kevin Bacon had intimate knowledge about his character's love interest while shooting his new movie, "The Woodsman." She was, after all, Kyra Sedgwick, his real life wife.

"We've been married 16 years, and this is one of the handful of times we've been on-screen together," Bacon told the *Boston Herald* in Sunday's editions. "She had a lot of hesitation about taking the part," said Bacon, who managed to persuade his wife to take the part.

"I said to her, 'Look, we don't have a Hollywood tabloid kind of marriage. People are not really all that interested in our marriage because it's a good one and is therefore uninteresting.'"

Bacon

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



ART

Actress Janine Turner makes her directorial debut with the short film "Trip in a Summer Dress," which also stars her daughter, Juliette Gauntt, right. The film made its debut at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas. The two are shown in Grapevine, Texas.

# Turner gets southern exposure

## Actress' return to Texas allows her to make her movie — her way

BY CATHY FRISINGER  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

DALLAS — "Woo-hoo!"

Janine Turner is flying so high she lets out a gleeful whoop every few minutes as she addresses the crowd gathered for the red-carpet opening of her directorial debut.

"Stand up, Mike," she orders Mike Norris, son of actor Chuck Norris. "[Mike's] also my husband in the movie — who couldn't talk because we couldn't pay him."

"Woo-hoo!"

Actress Turner, best known for her role as Alaskan bush pilot Maggie O'Connell in TV's "Northern Exposure," is as giddy as a 5-year-old on Christmas morning at this gathering earlier this month at the Angelika cinema in Dallas. And why not? It's her party. For her movie — her movie in every imaginable way.

"Trip in a Summer Dress," a 26-minute film about a mother and daughter divided by a secret, wasn't just directed by Turner. It was also Turner who sought out the rights to the short story by Annette Sanford that appeared in a "Texas Bound" collection. It was Turner who put up the \$20,000 to finance the film; Turner who wrote the screenplay; Turner who portrayed the overbearing Mama; Turner who plucked her family and friends for talent to play the roles of Sara Jean, Blue-Haired Lady 1 and Little Girl on Bus; Turner who sang the music that plays over the closing credits. It's even Turner's horses and cows and dog that appeared in "Summer Dress" (with appropriate credits, by name — AB, Maggie, Chubbis, etc. — at the end of film).

"Very seldom does anyone have their

hand on every frame of a film," says "Designing Texas" host and longtime Turner gal-pal Jocelyn White, who's co-executive producer of the film.

So it's not Hollywood. And it's not a feature-length film. And there aren't oodles of people with famous names competing for the spotlight at the opening.

Still, it's Turner's work, all the way.

"This was, and is, by far my favorite project," bubbles Turner.

"Woo-hoo!"

A svelte, heavily made-up Janine Turner is talking to some people in the lobby of Timarnon Country Club in Southlake, Texas, after a photo shoot when a graying gentleman walks up to her.

"I used to play golf with your father," he says, extending a hand and an eager smile.

Turner looks pleased and replies that her dad doesn't play golf much anymore. "He took up cows."

Exchanges like that are among the reasons why Turner — Emmy nominee, movie star — lives in Colleyville, Texas. The Fort Worth area always has been her real home. It was in Eulest that she learned to ride a bicycle, at Eagle Mountain Elementary that she exchanged comic valentines with classmates, at Boswell High that she cheered for the football team.

Although her career took her to New York and California, she's glad she chose to return to North Texas, where long-standing connections enrich her life, even though the spotlight is harder to command from Colleyville.

When she attends church here, her sister-in-law is singing in the choir.

In case she wants to ride a horse, it's a short drive north to her ranch, Mocking-

bird Hill, where Maggie (she swears the horse was named before she bought her) and her herd of longhorns reside.

And when her 6-year-old daughter, Juliette, feels sick during an interview, it's easy for Turner's mother, Colleyville real estate agent Janice Gauntt, to swing by and pick up her granddaughter with the mane of curls.

Such home-style comforts aren't taken lightly by Turner. She knows well what it's like to live the other kind of life, the kind where career and the quest for fame come first.

A dark-eyed beauty even as a child, she'd done occasional modeling for the Kim Dawson Agency from the age of 3. When she was 15, she moved to New York City with her mother to pursue modeling and acting.

Her first TV role was on the "Who Shot J.R.?" episode of "Dallas." Then came a series of damsel-in-distress roles where she'd be rescued by David Hasselhoff as "Knight Rider" or some similar TV-style hero. She did a year on "General Hospital" — "as a blonde, because they wanted me to look like Genie Francis."

"I learned from that year that if you take a role on TV, it better be a role that you like."

Finally, in 1990, came the big break, with her Maggie role in "Northern Exposure," an ensemble comedy-drama about the quirky characters living in a tiny Alaskan town. After pursuing fame away from Texas for years, success was, strangely, the means to her return home. Her first purchases with her new-found wealth were a black pickup and a horse — sure signs of who she really was.

"I lived in L.A., New York, Seattle and I never really felt the desire to go home until I had my big break, and then I thought, 'I can go home, now,'" she says.



## YOUR MONEY

# Make higher demands, fewer promises

BY JONATHAN KRIM  
AND GRITTE WITTE

The Washington Post

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — Teresa Geerling is living the future of life in the middle of the American work force.

After years cleaning the insides of airplanes and polishing their outside, Geerling was laid off from American Airlines last year. The job was physically taxing for Geerling, 50, but the nearly \$32,000 annual pay and health-care coverage helped provide a typical middle-class life in this small Midwest community.

Now she works the overnight shift at a local hospital as a nurse's aide while completing coursework to be certified as a medical assistant. That would seem to be a smart move because, unlike airlines, which are contracting, health care is one of the industries that many economists believe could generate millions more jobs in the decades to come.

Yet rarely has Geerling's work life been so precarious.

If she can't stay on her husband's health plan, her costs for health insurance would be the hospital will be \$200 a month, more than five times as much as at the airline. There are few job protections and no pension benefits beyond the option of a 401(k) savings plan. She makes \$2 an hour less than before, to have a chance at higher pay, she must continually train herself in new skills.

Geerling is at the leading edge of changes that herald a new era for millions of people earning around the national average, \$17 an hour.

This new era requires workers to shoulder more responsibility and risk on the way to financial security, economists say. It also demands they be nimble in an increasingly fluid job market. Those who don't obtain some combination of specialized skills, higher education and professional status that can be constantly adapted will be in danger of sliding down the economic ladder to low-paying service jobs, usually without benefits.

Meanwhile, those who secure the middle-class jobs of the 21st century will have to make \$17 an hour stretch further than ever as they pay more for health care or risk losing without insurance and assume much or all of the burden for their retirement.

Many economists and scholars acknowledge that the changes wrought by technology and global economic forces will be painful at first. But they say the new structure ultimately will create many kinds of jobs as yet unimagined, in fields such as education, health care and science.

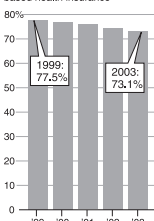
"You have to take the leap of faith that the economy will evolve and there will be this innovation economy that comes," said John McCarthy, a Forrester Research analyst who wrote a report on U.S. jobs going overseas.

Many observers also say that the present economic restructuring may be more rocky than similar transitions in the past and that society should take additional measures to ease the struggles of those caught in the middle, especially the three-quarters of Americans who lack a college degree.

## Paying More But Getting Less

Benefits such as health insurance and pensions are in decline at companies across America. Middle-class families are paying more for coverage on jobs of the ranks of the uninsured, and even larger companies are backing away from traditional pension plans.

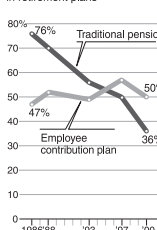
Percentage of individuals in families within 15 percent of median income with employment-based health insurance



\*All medium- and large-size establishments.

SOURCES: U.S. Census, Employee Benefit Research Institute, based on Census and government data; Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Percentage of full-time employees\* participating in retirement plans



The Washington Post

Analysts say retraining will be key because tomorrow's middle-class jobs likely will be enhanced variations of today's lower-wage jobs.

Clerical positions keeping medical records, for instance, are being transformed into higher-paying technician jobs that involve both

computer skills and the ability to talk to doctors and nurses.

"You can't be some kid who is good with a computer and get that job anymore," said Anthony Carnevale, senior fellow at the National Center on Education and the Economy. The successful candidates will be "someone who can do the computer stuff but also knows the business."

That combination of technology savvy, analytical thinking and interpersonal skills could be the magic formula for U.S. workers in many fields. Jobs that involve all three qualities, said Thomas Kochan, an MIT management professor, are hard to duplicate with machines or with low-wage workers from abroad, putting the Americans who fill them in a strong position to demand not just good wages, but benefits, too.

Over the past two decades, companies have moved away from traditional pensions in which employ-

ers pay the cost and employees get a set amount after retiring. Employer-based health-care coverage has fallen as well, for low-wage workers and increasingly for those in middle-class jobs. One analysis estimates there were 5 million fewer jobs providing health insurance in 2004 than there were just three years earlier. Overall, nearly one in five full-time workers today goes without health insurance; among part-time workers, it's one in four.

Those with benefits often must pick up their share of the higher cost. Employee contributions for family coverage were 49 percent higher in 2004 than in 2001, and contributions for individual coverage were 57 percent higher, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Jobs that provide both a middle-class wage and benefits, even for workers without advanced degrees, still exist, often in environments. But they're getting harder to find.

As technology has made global competition a reality, American workers — particularly the lower-skilled — have found themselves competing in a far broader marketplace. Their rivals overseas often don't expect or receive benefits at all. That puts American companies at a competitive disadvantage.

"It's not helping employers to not be able to offer benefits," said Jennifer Schramm, manager of health care and forecasting at the Society for Human Resource Management. But cutting back on benefits "is something they feel they have to do for economic reasons."

Shifts in the composition of the work force have contributed as well. Jobs in manufacturing are more likely to come with benefits than are jobs in the service sector. But such jobs began a decline in the 1980s that continues today, and factory workers were forced to look elsewhere for a middle-class living. Many retrained, finding work in business services such as sales, information technology and accounting.

Even businesses that are expected to grow, in industries such as health care and education, have begun to pare back the pool of workers eligible for full benefits.

## MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
52-week	High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg
18,652.77	17,916.43	18,000.00	Dow Jones Industrial	18,723.43	+51.50
3,623.96	2,743.46	2,800.00	Dow Jones Transportation	3,768.37	+37.68
137.79	259.68	260.00	Dow Jones Utilities	279.69	+4.25
7,731.18	6,211.33	6,300.00	NYSE Composite	7,179.71	+78.35
1,406.44	1,158.74	1,160.00	S&P 500	1,416.69	+9.90
2,585.56	1,750.82	1,800.00	NASDAQ Composite	2,152.15	+23.29
1,277.33	1,056.72	1,060.00	S&P 500	1,260.88	+8.84
566.29	540.29	540.00	S&P 500	622.17	+11.14
656.11	519.97	520.00	Russell 2000	640.44	+11.11
12,618.55	10,268.52	10,300.00	D. Wilshire 2000	11,855.19	+57.97

NYSE			AMEX			NASDAQ		
Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)		
Name	Vol	Chg	Name	Vol	Chg	Name	Vol	Chg
Alcoa	6,642	+0.45	Alcoa	6,642	+0.45	Alcoa	6,642	+0.45
Boeing	1,000	+0.87	Boeing	1,000	+0.87	Boeing	1,000	+0.87
General Electric	27	+22	General Electric	27	+22	General Electric	27	+22
IBM	1,000	+0.87	IBM	1,000	+0.87	IBM	1,000	+0.87
Microsoft	1,000	+0.87	Microsoft	1,000	+0.87	Microsoft	1,000	+0.87
Oracle	1,000	+0.87	Oracle	1,000	+0.87	Oracle	1,000	+0.87
Yahoo!	1,000	+0.87	Yahoo!	1,000	+0.87	Yahoo!	1,000	+0.87
Amazon	1,000	+0.87	Amazon	1,000	+0.87	Amazon	1,000	+0.87
Google	1,000	+0.87	Google	1,000	+0.87	Google	1,000	+0.87
Microsoft	1,000	+0.87	Microsoft	1,000	+0.87	Microsoft	1,000	+0.87
Oracle	1,000	+0.87	Oracle	1,000	+0.87	Oracle	1,000	+0.87
Yahoo!	1,000	+0.87	Yahoo!	1,000	+0.87	Yahoo!	1,000	+0.87
Amazon	1,000	+0.87	Amazon	1,000	+0.87	Amazon	1,000	+0.87
Google	1,000	+0.87	Google	1,000	+0.87	Google	1,000	+0.87

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS			KEY MUTUAL FUNDS		
Name	Div	FE	Name	NAV	Chg
Airbus Technologies	1.00	64.42	Affinity Invest: Global	38.03	-1.5
Boeing	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
General Electric	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Lockheed Martin	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Northrop Grumman	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Raytheon	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Boeing	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
General Electric	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Lockheed Martin	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Northrop Grumman	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Raytheon	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Boeing	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
General Electric	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Lockheed Martin	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Northrop Grumman	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Raytheon	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Boeing	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
General Electric	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Lockheed Martin	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Northrop Grumman	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1
Raytheon	1.00	59.87	Affinity Invest: Ultra	29.39	-1.1

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Jan. 5)	102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 4)	1,069.00
Euro (Jan. 4)	0.962
Dollar (Jan. 4)	0.724
British pound (Jan. 4)	0.519
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.737
British pound	0.5045
Canada (Dollar)	1.371
Denmark (Krone)	1.3698
Euro (Euro)	0.7272
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1,348/0.741
Italy (Lira)	1,936
Israel (Shekel)	6,195
Japan (Yen)	102.68
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.7019
Norway (Krone)	6.0786
Philippines (Peso)	1.3614
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.371
South Korea (Won)	1,038.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.3688
Taiwan (New Dollar)	38.88
Thailand (Baht)	54.94
United Kingdom (Pound)	0.7272
United States (Dollar)	1.0000
Netherlands and the United Kingdom	0.7272
For non-U.S. currency exchange, see the U.S. Department of the Treasury's website (www.fia.gov).	
(U.S. purchasing power parity) in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom	
buying facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for U.S. dollars.	
buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates for U.S. dollars.	
British pound, which is represented in dollars, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro).	

PRECIOUS METALS		
Name	Price	Chg
Gold	\$428.70	+0.77
Silver	\$6.47	+0.01
INTEREST RATES		
Name	Rate	Chg
Prime rate	5.25	-
Discount rate	5.25	-
Federal funds market rate	2.25	-
3-month bill	2.25	-
6-month bill	2.25	-
1-year bill	2.25	-
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America		

## cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

## U.S. gas prices decline

The Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — The retail price of gasoline fell for the ninth straight week to average \$1.78 per gallon in the States, the Energy Department reported Monday.

The government survey said the average price nationwide of regular-grade unleaded gasoline declined 1.3 cents last week to \$1.78 per gallon. Prices are 27 cents higher than a year ago.

Pump prices are highest on the West Coast, averaging \$1.93 per gallon, and cheapest on the Gulf Coast, averaging \$1.67 per gallon. In the Midwest, gas averages \$1.78 per gallon.

A key factor behind the high price of gasoline is expensive oil — the result of strong demand, geopolitical uncertainties and tight U.S. supplies of heating oil.

The price of light crude for December delivery fell \$1.41 to set at \$42.12 a barrel by the New York Mercantile Exchange.



## OPINION

## Here's what's wrong with Social Security

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Scripps Howard

**“W**e have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and his family against ... poverty-ridden old age,” said Franklin Roosevelt as he signed the Social Security Act on Aug. 14, 1935.

Those are noble, heartfelt sentiments for a difficult period, but, as 2005 begins, it's time to face facts: Social Security stinks. Government may owe a measure of protection to retirees, but this is a terrible way to provide it.

Social Security is an absurd anachronism — and most people under 50 know it and want something better. By its 70th anniversary, the system must get the restructuring it desperately needs.

Begin with the obvious. Social Security is a Ponzi scheme headed for collapse. It is a pay-as-you-go program. Taxes from working Americans go directly into the pockets of retired Americans. (There's a tiny bit left over for a so-called “trust fund,” which will soon be depleted.) Initial retirees scored big, as early winners who are bait for any Ponzi.

The very first recipients, Ida May Fuller, paid in \$44 and collected benefits of \$20.934. Times were different. In the 1930s, there were 11 workers per retiree; today, the ratio is 3-to-1; in 20 years, it will be an untenable 2-to-1.

The life expectancy of a newborn in 1929 was 57; today, it's nearly 80. Americans are now far more likely to live long enough to get benefits, and they'll be paid those benefits much longer, starting at age 62. Meanwhile, the growth of the work force is slowing, and benefits are rising because of a generous formula.

The traditional remedy to this imbalance is to increase taxes on workers or cut the benefits of retirees, or both. But we've come to a point where such an approach will inspire both workers and retirees to throw up their hands and shelter. “Enough of this nonsense.”

Instead, the obvious long-term solution is for Americans to fund a larger part of their own retirements — just as they pay for their own food and clothes and shelter. That way, they won't have to worry whether there are enough workers to pay their bills when they retire.

They'll pay their own bills out of their savings.

You would think, from the bleatings of interest groups, that self-funded retirements are loony and radical. An upcoming newspaper ad from the AARP will show a couple saying, “If we feel like gambling, we'll play the slots.”

But saving for retirement is no more gambling than buying a home — which is something that 68 percent of Americans do very well. Going deeply into debt to purchase real estate is a far bigger risk than building a retirement account between your 20s and 60s.

Currently, 42 million U.S. workers own a 401(k) plan and manage it pretty well. The average annual return for the 10 years ending in 2002 was 6.4 percent, compared with 6.8 percent for professionally managed pension plans, according to Watson Wyatt Worldwide.

After inflation, the average return on a 401(k) was about 4 percent. A study by the Social Security Administration projects, with generous assumptions, that middle-income workers born in the last 30 years can expect returns of just 1.5 percent to 2 percent from Social Security. A study by the Na-



DANIEL @STARSANDSTRIPES.COM

tional Center for Policy Analysis found that for a single black man entering the work force today, it will be 0.9 percent.

That's a crime. Since 1926, the average annual return for a conservative portfolio split 50-50 between Treasury bonds and a stock-market index has been 8 percent; after inflation, 5 percent. A reasonable approach to restructuring Social Security would guarantee current benefits for retirees and let other Americans take half of what now goes to payroll taxes and put it into a 401(k)-style personal retirement account, retaining a thinner pay-as-you-go layer — which, as the program showed its success, would eventually be phased out.

What's the role of government here? To make contributions to such accounts mandatory, keep choices sound and sensible, and postpone withdrawals — so the rest of us don't have to rescue the profligate and the unlucky from what FDR called “poverty-ridden old age.”

Americans deserve to own their own retirement accounts, which they can use as seniors and later pass on to their kids, church or charity. It's patronizing — and, with the current condition of Social Security, dangerous — to pretend otherwise.

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and host of the Web site TechCentralStation.com.

## Post-Rehnquist speculation hints at what's at stake

**A**t dinner not long ago with a group of Washington insiders, a mixture of conservative Republicans and moderate Democrats, I was asked to hear several of my companions

Dan Thomasson



predict that either Antonin Scalia or Clarence Thomas might be picked to succeed William Rehnquist as chief justice of the United States. It is possible that one of two of the most controversial and unsettling conservatives on the Supreme Court could be nominated for this enormously important job.

It is, the insiders said, and what is more, some of those closest to the situation opined that it would happen.

Talks about waving red flags in front of bulls, I said incredulously, and was promptly reminded about who won the presidential election and with whose help. The attitude from my conservative dinner companions was one of resolve to do what they pleased. A former Democratic senator sitting next to me shrugged and muttered something about that being the way of political victors — rape, burn and pillage, he grinned.

Rehnquist's health, so precarious that he may never return to the bench, the chances are the next biggest fight outside of Iraq will take place over his replacement before the New Year is terribly old.

Liberals already are grinding for that battle, clogging the Internet with somewhat-hysterical warnings that the nation faces impending doom unless all forces are brought to bear against the Philistines of the Right.

At the top of their list of concerns is abortion, with emotional issues about flags and gay marriage and schools and religion in public life come behind.

From a numbers standpoint, they have a right to worry. Several justices are in their 70s or 80s or could retire during the next four years, giving social conservatives the opportunity they have been waiting for almost since the days of Chief Justice Earl Warren — a court where the balance is heavily tilted their way. But why Scalia, a brilliant but irascible ideologue whom liberals despise and whose ethics have been challenged of late, or Thomas, who seems generally to follow Scalia's lead and whose opinions have never been considered particularly noteworthy in style or substance? Those who follow the court closely note that Scalia's nomination to head the court would

please President Bush's conservative base like no other. There is little question that elimination or substantial modification of Roe v. Wade would be at the top of the agenda if either Scalia or Thomas were selected and approved. Thomas, who maintains a low profile in public, has a loyal following and, according to court watchers, is well-liked by his fellow justices.

Probably unfairly, he has never been popular among his fellow blacks largely because of positions on issues like affirmative action that they believe are detrimental to their welfare. He simply doesn't fit the political profile blacks assume is best for them.

Either of these justices could be expected to face enormous opposition in the confirmation process. Scalia, for instance, would be subjected to rigorous questioning about his connections to the White House and his re-

fusal to recuse himself from a case involving Vice President Cheney, who has been a hunting partner. Thomas, whose life was changed dramatically by confirmation hearings for his original nomination to the court, might think twice about going another round in a Senate that allowed outlandish, silly and made-up accusations about sexual harassment in the work environment.

Whoever is nominated can be expected to lead the court away from the center toward a strict constructionism in interpreting the Constitution. We can only hope that Americans won't be treated to another offensive spectacle of the Thomas variety no matter who is nominated.

Liberals should conduct themselves far more decorously than they have. But don't bet on it, for them, the stakes are too high.

Dan Thomasson is former editor of the Scripps Howard News Service.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



UNIVERSITY FACULTY-  
HIVING COMMITTEE MEMBER:  
"I RESOLVE TO CRUSADE  
FOR DIVERSITY...  
OF SKIN TONE,  
BUT NOT OF PHILOSOPHY...  
I WANT FOLKS OF ALL RACES...  
FROM ALL SORTS OF  
PLACES..."



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## Salamander a winner

**IL** CHICAGO — The Eastern tiger salamander slipped by two other finalists in balloting for the title of state amphibian, while slow and steady was a winning strategy for the painted turtle in the state reptile race. The public chose the winners in an interesting vote. The Legislature still has to approve them as official state symbols.

## Suspects sought

**RI** PAWTUCKET — Pawtucket police were looking for three suspects connected to a home invasion that left an elderly couple bound and beaten.

Police said three people wearing dark clothing and masks broke into a Pawtucket couple's home, bound the 74-year-old and 69-year-old with duct tape and beat them about their faces.

When officers arrived at the home, the assailants had already fled.

Police said two of the robbers had handguns. One of the suspects also may have sustained a severe bite to a finger on the right hand during a struggle with one of the victims.

Various rooms in the couple's home were ransacked, and cash and other valuables were taken, police said.

## Secondary water supply

**UT** LAYTON — Three rapidly growing Davis County communities are hinging approval for new development proposals on whether builders have secondary water sources secured. While the requirement will increase the cost of new home construction, city leaders say it will prevent them from running out of drinking water before running out of room to build.

## Whale untangled

**SC** COLUMBIA — Scientists apparently have freed a young Atlantic right whale from more than 150 feet of lobster fishing gear after riding along the animal on a U.S. Coast Guard cutter for nearly 24 hours, officials say.

Workers untangled the whale off the South Carolina coast, said Barb Zoodsma, a right whale recovery coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who was part of the rescue team.

"It did have some severe head wounds that were beginning to dig into the animal's flesh," Zoodsma said in a telephone interview.

"We know those all came free."

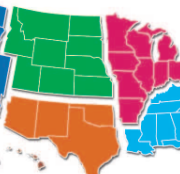
Some line may have remained around a flipper that the rescue crew was unable to check, Zoodsma said.

The gear around the head caused severe injuries to the whale's blowhole, leaving it able to open to about the size of a quarter instead of the normal 6 to 7 inches, Zoodsma said.

## Still no new jobs

**TX** AUSTIN — Ten months after it received \$1.6 million from Republican Gov. Rick Perry's Texas Enterprise Fund, the Texas Energy Center has yet to create any new jobs and is without a director.

Created in 2003, the center was



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

proposed as a way to transform the energy industry by bringing together business and researchers to develop new energy sources. It was to create thousands of jobs and bring millions of dollars in corporate investment to the Houston suburb of Sugar Land.

Energy Center leaders say the problem is a lack of federal funds and a need to change their business plan to fit the objectives of the jobs-focused Texas Enterprise Fund. A better fit, they said, would have been the emerging technology fund that Perry recently proposed. That fund would emphasize research and development and demand fewer immediate jobs.

## New trial rejected

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A graduate student convicted in the \$2 million firebombing of scores of sport utility vehicles lost a bid for a new trial.

A federal judge rejected the motion by 24-year-old William Jensen Cottrell, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Cottrell had claimed the court improperly barred his attorneys from presenting evidence that he suffered from a type of autism that made it difficult for him to understand the intentions of his alleged accomplices.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner sided with prosecutors, who argued that Cottrell's complaint was "irrelevant to the issues at trial."

Cottrell, a doctoral candidate at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, was found guilty in



**Tackling dad**  
Rick Ross, bottom, plays a game of football with his son, Jermaree, 6, as they enjoy the warm weather at Freedom Park in Charlotte, N.C.

November of conspiracy to commit arson and seven counts of arson in the August 2003 rampage.

More than 100 vehicles were damaged or destroyed at dealerships and homes in the San Gabriel Valley near Los Angeles.

Two fellow students have been identified by prosecutors as "fugitive co-conspirators." Cottrell faces at least five years in prison at sentencing.

## Hazardous waste fire

**AR** EL DORADO — A fire at a hazardous waste incineration plant forced the evacuation of a quarter of the city's 23,000 residents, officials said.

No injuries were reported and officials were monitoring air quality as thick smoke rose from the plant, said Sheriff Ken Jones.

Officials with the Teris plant in southern Arkansas were unavailable for comment.

The county jail, about 400 yards from the plant, was among the buildings evacuated and about 150 inmates were moved to a school gymnasium eight miles outside of town, Jones said.

## Liable for \$300M

**NV** LAS VEGAS — A federal judge has ruled that Nevada's two main electric utilities missed their chance to escape an Enron Corp. power supply contract in 2001, and are liable for \$300 million in payments to the bankrupt energy trader.

Nevada Power Co. of Las Vegas and Sierra Pacific Power Co. of Reno kept buying power from Enron for several months after learning of Enron's "precarious financial state," U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones said in a ruling issued in New York.

Jones upheld an earlier federal bankruptcy judge's ruling, saying that by accepting power deliveries, the Nevada utilities "ratified the contract" and waived their opportunity to argue that Houston-based Enron engaged in fraud.

An official with the Nevada utilities declined comment on the Dec. 23 ruling, which the utilities' parent company, Sierra Pacific Resources, included in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## Highway towing

**TX** HOUSTON — More than 90 cars were towed away on the first day of a new initiative to clear Houston's clogged freeways of disabled or abandoned cars at the owner's expense.

"This is a rip-off," said Ahmed El-Helbawi, who paid \$81.50 to have his son's 1987 Volvo station wagon towed.

Motorists no longer will be allowed to change flat tires on the freeway shoulder, leave vehicles to get fuel or call their own help.

## Surveillance plans

**MA** HOLYOKE — The city plans to install five surveillance cameras at downtown high-crime areas, Police Chief Anthony R. Scott said. Holyoke will be the first city in the state other than Boston to install such cameras, Scott said. Boston installed many of the cameras this summer in response to potential terrorist threats during the Democratic National Convention and they remain in operation.



## Slippery jaunt

A climber scales a steep ice flow on the flanks of Mount Pisgah in Westmore, Vt. Wet weather and cold temperatures have resulted in good ice climbing conditions in the area, which features numerous climbs high above Lake Willoughby.



## Getting dirty

Jeremy Leboeuf, right, gives his 1-year-old daughter, Spirit, a ride on his all-terrain vehicle in Houma, La. Leboeuf and some of his friends spent the afternoon getting muddy riding around trails off of St. Louis Canal Road.



**Stuffed animal abuse**  
Tom Copeland of St. Petersburg, Fla., turns his dog, Tickle, loose on a stuffed badger in the stands at the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Fla. The Georgia Bulldogs defeated the Wisconsin Badgers 24-21.





**Polar bears plunge** Staff Sgt. Nelson Long Jr. from Myerstown, Pa., holds an American flag as he leads the charge at the 15th Annual Polar Bear Plunge at the Willow Springs Park in Richland, Pa. Long, a National Guardsman with the 1067th Transportation Company, had a weekend leave and joined nearly 600 other participants raising funds for the Developmental and Disabilities Services of Lebanon Valley, Pa.



**Low-flying trick** Cody Cline flies through the air on the slopes of McQueen High School in Reno, Nev.



**Honoring those lost** Joe Spector replaces some of the more than 1,200 American flags that the wind had knocked over in the front yard of his Overland Park, Kan., home. Spector says he has placed one flag in his yard for each U.S. soldier killed in the war in Iraq. Spector decided to display the flags instead of holiday lights on his house.

## Murder rate drops

**AL** BIRMINGHAM — Homicides in Birmingham dropped 26 percent in 2004, dipping to the second fewest in the city in 20 years, officials said. The city finished the year with 64 killings, 23 fewer than in 2003. Bessemer, Fairfield and unincorporated Jefferson County also saw their homicide numbers drop. The county counted 11 homicides in 2004, compared with 21 the previous year.

## Home business fight

**UT** LOGAN — The fight over a woman's desire to run a colon cleansing service out of her home has gotten down and dirty.

Colette Yates says she has invested two years and roughly \$40,000 on her home business, which focuses on removing waste from the large intestine by injecting water into the colon, where it loosens and softens waste.

But while colon hydrotherapy is a licensed procedure in other states, it is considered only a homeopathic method in Utah.

The Providence Planning Commission recently recommended denial of Yates' request for a permit. Commissioners said they wanted to avoid setting a precedent of allowing medically oriented businesses in residential neighborhoods.

## Same-sex challenge

**RI** TIVERTON — The Tiverton School Committee asked a judge whether it can extend health care coverage to the same-sex spouse of a retired high school teacher. Cheryl McCullough, who worked as a health teacher and guidance counselor at Tiverton High School for 27 years, applied for health insurance for Joyce Bolwin in June, days after the couple was married in their home state of Massachusetts, where same-sex marriages are legal. Lawyers for both sides say this is the first case of this kind in Rhode Island, where the law is silent on gay marriage.

## Office swapping ends

**IN** ALBION — Republican Diann Bortner and Democrat Bonnie Summe were once notorious office swappers. Those days have now ended.

Bortner and Summe traded treasurer and clerk jobs in Noble County every eight years to skirt a state law on term limits. But Summe, 73, retired last year after 33½ years in government.

Summe and Bortner, who now takes over as treasurer after eight years as clerk, were elected for years with and without opponents.

Because state law limits treasurers and clerks to eight years of continuous tenure in each elected position, they informally arranged to switch offices every eight years.

From 1981 to 1988, Bortner served as Noble County clerk, Summe served as county treasurer. For the next two terms, Bortner served as treasurer while Summe served as clerk. In 1996, they swapped again.

## Rifle research

**KY** LOUISVILLE — A rare rifle once owned by President George Washington is coming off display at the Frazier Historical

Arms Museum collection.

Museum spokeswoman Liz Ferguson said the rifle, first exhibited Nov. 28, will be removed Jan. 10 for more research.

The museum's founder, Louisville businessman Owsley Brown Frazier, lent the flintlock rifle, which is the only long gun owned by America's first president still known to exist, to the foundation that runs the museum.

The .44-caliber rifle likely was presented as a gift to Washington at his Mount Vernon estate in Virginia in 1791, museum officials have said. The museum's chief curator, Walter "Chip" Karcheski Jr., "will further investigate the provenance" of the rifle, Ferguson said. "There is no doubt the rifle was owned by Washington. But we hope to find a letter or a diary passage that cites specifically when the rifle was presented to Washington," Ferguson said.

## Young med student

**CO** DENVER — Alex Oshynsky may be in his second year of medical school, but he still can't buy a drink.

He is 20. Oshynsky, who took only a whole year to graduate college, is on his way to becoming a brain surgeon so he can study the mathematical modeling of the brain's pathways. The possibilities include finding ways for paraplegics or quadriplegics to move prosthetic devices using brain waves.

Oshynsky graduated from high school in 2002 and went to the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2003. He is in his second year of medical school at Duke University. This fall, he'll pursue a doctorate in mathematical biology at Oxford University as one of 40 Americans awarded a Marshall Scholarship from the British government.

"In terms of sheer intellectual horsepower, Alex Oshynsky is probably the brightest student I have ever known," CU honors professor Ron Billingsley said.

## Drug court program

**WI** OSHKOSH — Winneshago County officials say they plan to institute a drug court program that would seek to address drug issues without jail or prison terms through frequent court contact, regular drug testing and treatment. Three other Wisconsin counties already have drug courts. County Judge Scott Woldt cited the success of a similar program in Hastings, Minn., which he says had a 17 percent reduction in recidivism.

## Breeding walleye

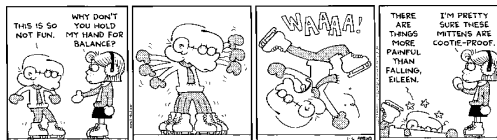
**WV** CHARLESTON — Researchers have found a unique strain of walleye in the Ohio River that West Virginia wildlife officials plan to breed in an effort to boost the fish's population in the river.

Unlike the lake-dwelling walleye normally stocked in the Ohio, this strain of fish has adapted to living in a river. Although it has only been found in the upper Ohio, north of the Bellevue port, wildlife officials believe it would thrive throughout the waterway if they breed it in a hatchery and stock it. Similar strains of river-adapted walleye have been found in the New River in Virginia and the Rock Castle River in Kentucky.

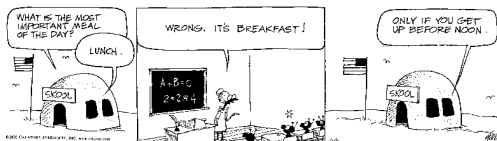
Stories and photos from news wires



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



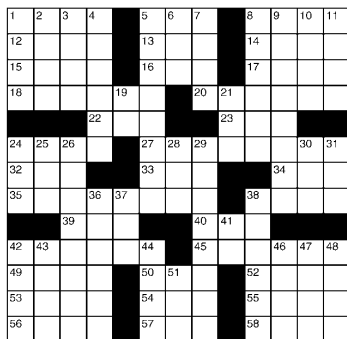
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Sepulcher
- 5 Agt.
- 8 Call off
- 12 Suitable
- 13 Corn spike
- 14 "— Kleine Nacht-musik"
- 15 Plumbing problem
- 16 Prompt
- 17 Dec. holiday
- 18 Patterned fabric
- 20 Inventor's protection
- 23 La follower
- 25 Come together
- 24 Lapidary's supply
- 27 King of Siam's pet word
- 32 "— my brother's keeper?"
- 33 Jamaican music
- 34 Family member
- 35 Peak, maybe
- 38 Venomous vipers
- 39 Grumpy colleague
- 40 Type squares
- 42 Whodunit culprit
- 45 Timmy's rescuer
- 49 Year-end refrain
- 50 Exploit
- 52 Arm bone
- 53 Differently
- 54 Clear the tables
- 55 World Series stats
- 56 Uncomplicated
- 57 "Absolutely"
- 58 Formerly, formerly

## Down

- 1 One of Taylor's hobbies
- 2 Gumbo need
- 3 Injure severely
- 4 Circumvent
- 5 Irresponsible
- 6 Perfume label word
- 7 Get ready
- 8 Hockey team, e.g.
- 9 Eternal
- 10 Brother of Er
- 11 Nuisance
- 19 "And I should give a dam, why?"
- 21 Demographic datum
- 24 Petrol
- 25 Ostrich's cousin

- 26 Intellectually unstimulating
- 28 Ring decision
- 29 Sloppy
- 30 Tear
- 31 Chowderhead
- 36 Badminton exchange
- 37 Lemieux milieu
- 38 Guarantee
- 41 Pa's gal
- 42 Patch locale, often
- 43 Kansas city
- 44 Red corundum
- 46 Utter unclearly
- 47 Rustic stopovers
- 48 It's right on the map
- 51 Seek restitution

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## I-6

## CRYPTOQUIP

VI LJX YRUQ KRAZ AQTTVGW  
TRCWQ KJIIQHHJSA. V  
WXQAA SZRS YQRGALJX  
XCG LJXC UQQH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M VERY HAPPY WITH MY NEW SOUPED-UP STEREO SYSTEM. IT WAS A SOUND INVESTMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals E

# Celebrate life to ease pain of loss

**Dear Abby:** You gave a kind response to "Missing My Mom," the woman who went away with her 5-year-old's birthday party two days after her own mother's death. Had you faulted her, it would have added to the guilt she's already feeling. However, had I been in that woman's shoes, I would have postponed the party for several weeks. The loss of one's parent certainly takes precedence over a child's birthday party—and it would have been a good sense in values for the little one.

—89-Year-Old Reader in North Royalton, Ohio

**Dear Reader:** I responded as I did because I feel that no child of 5 should be forced to associate her special day with death and mourning if it is avoidable. Read on for a sample of what other readers had to say on the subject:

**Dear Abby:** The day I buried

my 17-year-old son was my niece's birthday. She was just a year and a day younger than her cousin. After the funeral, I had an impromptu party for her. She's an adult now with children of her own, but she has never forgotten. To this day she thanks me for thinking about her even though I was grieving. I believe that life must go on. We can't do anything about our loved one's death except celebrate the precious time we had with them here on Earth.

—Loving Aunt in Colorado

**Dear Loving Aunt:** My dear grandmother, Rose Phillips, shared your philosophy. You have much in common. She was a strong matriarch who always looked forward, and lived to be 103.

**Dear Abby:** Please remind that mother in Maine that Jacqueline Kennedy gave her little boy

a party a few days after her husband was assassinated. I think "Missing My Mom" was in good company.

—Nancy in Katy, Texas

**Dear Nancy:** Several other readers also pointed that out.

**Dear Abby:** I lost my mother in February of 2002, and my granddaughter had her birthday party the same week. My daughter asked me, "Are you sure, Mommy?" I said, "Yes, I want to carry on 'Nana's' wonderful spirit of family first!" (My mother always put family first.) I found it comforting to have my family around me when I was at one of the lowest points in my life. Yes, "Missing My Mom" made the right choice. My heart goes out to her.

—J.H., Peoria, Ill.

**Dear J.H.:** I couldn't agree more.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ALTEM  
 O O O O  
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URUGA  
 O O O O

FLOSSI  
 O O O O O

LALPAP  
 O O O O O

www.jumble.com

Ans: A O O O O

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUMBO FUNNY BANNER RADIUM Answer: What the angry driver used to pay his speeding fine — "MAD" MONEY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Agrignon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" O O O O O " (Answers tomorrow)

# Give daughter room to be with dad

**Dear Annie:** I was the victim of domestic violence in my eight-year marriage that ended 10 years ago. After the divorce, I went to counseling with my daughter, "Mari," who was then age 6. I learned that blaming the other parent continuously for the separation would only destroy my relationship with Mari, so for the past 10 years, I have done everything I can to encourage and sustain Mari's close relationship with her father. I never mentioned his abuse, but I know Mari remembers some of the more serious incidents.

Mari is now 16. Six months ago, my ex-husband was diagnosed with a terminal case of Hepatitis C. Prior to the diagnosis, Mari had believed in a typical "I-hate-my-Mom" fashion for about a year, but I thought it was a passing teenage thing and we would eventually get back to our usual loving relationship. But she shocked me when she abruptly moved into her father's house and

now refuses to have anything to do with me. I miss her desperately, but the courts tell me that a 16-year-old has custody of herself.

What is going on here?

—Distressed Mom in Sacramento

**Dear Distressed:** You say Mari remembers the abuse, which means she may have felt some ill will toward her father over the years. Now he is dying, and Mari wants to make it up to him by spending as much time as possible by his side. Avoiding you is easier than dealing with your disappointment and hurt.

You have been a class act for the past 10 years. Tell Mari you love her and you are happy she is with her father during this time because you know how much it means to both of them. Hide your bitterness even if it means being an actress worthy of an Academy Award. In time, your relationship will be stronger because you supported her.

**Dear Annie:** I have a very

dear friend who insists on calling me every night. I work in an office, and my job requires a lot of phone work. When I get home, the last thing I want to hear is my phone ringing.

I can't tell her to stop without hurting her feelings or lying to her. She's an older woman with a family, and she lives three hours away from me. Most of the time our phone conversations are a lot of dead air, since there's not much to talk about when you speak to someone every day.

—Tone-Deaf

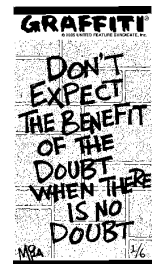
**Dear Tone-Deaf:** If you are unwilling to tell this woman that you're busy and must hang up, simply stop answering your phone. If you have Caller ID, use it. Otherwise, invest in an answering machine and let it screen your calls. You don't have to be held hostage by this woman.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"Remember last summer when we prayed for cooler weather, Mommy? I think we overdid it."



## Dennis the Menace



## The Far Side



## Non Sequitur

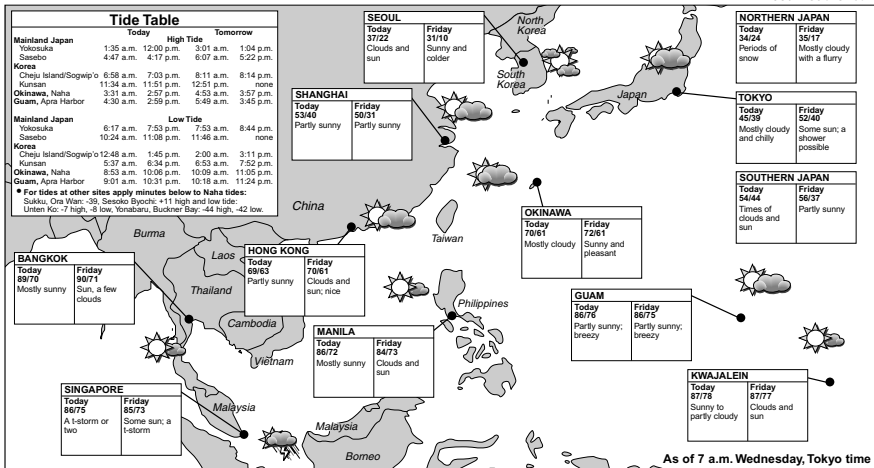






# The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2005  
AccuWeather.com



## Extended Forecasts

### TOKYO

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high 43, low 35.  
Sunday: Mostly sunny, high 45, low 33.

### KADENA

Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 68, low 56.  
Sunday: Showers, high 65, low 55.

### SEKUL

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high 23, low 5.  
Sunday: Sunny, high 21, low 7.

### MANILA

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, high 84, low 72.  
Sunday: Mostly cloudy, high 84, low 72.

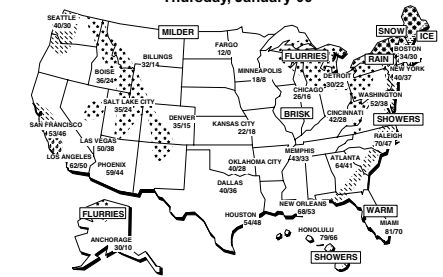
### HAGATNA

Saturday: Showers, high 85, low 75.  
Sunday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 76.

## Tuesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	49/30	Los Angeles	56/44
Anaheim	49/30	Little Rock	70/58
Anchorage	44/26	Louisville	60/49
Asheville	71/45	Miami	79/67
Baltimore	67/44	Milwaukee	31/22
Birmingham	74/53	Nashville	63/56
Bismarck	0/-15	New York	51/36
Boise	32/17	Omaha	22/14
Boston	45/32	Orlando	80/58
Brownsville	85/70	Philadelphia	57/41
Buffalo	39/24	Phoenix	57/44
Burlington	33/15	Pittsburgh	46/35
Charleston, SC	75/52	Portland, OR	44/25
Charlotte	75/52	Portland, ME	39/24
Cleveland	41/30	Salt Lake City	43/26
Columbus, OH	50/37	St. Louis	43/36
Dallas	11/-8	San Antonio	77/65
El Paso	61/42	San Diego	58/45
Hartford	50/30	San Juan	83/72
Helena	11/-9	Tampa	80/60
Indianapolis	45/36	Tulsa	48/35
Jacksonville	77/52	Washington	66/48
Kansas City	30/22	Wichita	32/21

## Thursday, January 06



## U.S. Extended Forecast

It will be a rather messy start to the day on Thursday across the Northeast as a low pressure system brings snow to southern New England and a mix of rain and freezing rain to the mid-Atlantic states. By late morning the freezing rain will change to all rain as the associated warm front lifts northward and temperatures rise above freezing. Across the Southeast, there will be showers and a few thunderstorms associated with a passing cold front. Chilly Canadian air will push southward into the southern Plains and Texas, but the weather will remain dry for the most part. A surface high system will approach the California coast and bring rain and mountain snow to northern and central areas.

## Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	89/70	Iwakuni	48/42
Beijing	37/12	Kadena AB	70/61
Camp Casey	37/20	Kunsan AB	44/31
Christchurch	63/49	Kwajalein	87/78
Diego Garcia	84/73	Manila	86/72
Hagatna	86/76	Misawa AB	35/24
Hanoi	71/61	Osan	39/22
Hong Kong	69/63	Perth	90/68
Honolulu	79/66	Pusan	48/38

## Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/73	Budapest	38/28	Kabul	43/17
Athens	59/42	Buenos Aires	90/70	Kiev	29/19
Auckland	76/60	Cairo	61/42	Kuwait	66/58
Baghdad	54/31	Cancun	83/69	London	50/45
Barbados	81/65	Cape Town	83/62	Madrid	57/45
Barcelona	56/45	Geneva	40/37	Mexico City	73/45
Berlin	37/24	Istanbul	47/34	Montreal	20/19
Bermuda	72/64	Jerusalem	54/39	Mogadishu	92/76
Brussels	41/38	Johannesburg	89/65	Moscow	28/17
				Warsaw	35/27



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# COME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

## Falcons still flying high

### Juniors Higgins, Mohn leading drive for AA three-peat

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

For the past two years, Seoul American has ridden the broad shoulders of two transfer stars to the school's second and third Far East High School Boys Class AA titles.

Now, with Nino Etienne and Jake Abramowitz class memories and no transfers in sight, coach Steve Boyd is relying on home-grown talent, players who have come up through his system and know what's expected.

And if Seoul American's tournament hopes are to lift off this year, it may be on the wings of the "J-Birds," juniors Jay Higgins and Jamaal Mohn, two guards who assert they are "stepped for the challenge that lies ahead."

"There's no pressure," said Mohn, who backed up Higgins at point guard last year and takes over the starting role this year, while Higgins moves to shooting guard. "Just come out and do what we always do. As long as I have Jay by my side, I know we can show what Seoul American is made of."

Such attitude is what Boyd expects from his guard tandem — who, he contends, are the two to lead the drive for a three-peat.

"These guys know their roles. They know what's expected," Boyd said. "The other guys are an important part of the team, but these are the guys who make us go. They are the glue. And they have the ability."

So far, at least, the "J-Birds" have lived up

to their promise, helping keep Boyd unbeaten in 47 Korean-American Intercollegiate Athletic Conference games since he took the helm three seasons ago. The Falcons have not lost to a high school team since the 2002 Class AA tournament.

They opened the league season 3-0; they're 9-12 overall, including games against military teams. Mohn has averaged 13.1 points, 4.8 assists and 2.9 steals per game; Higgins, 9.8 points, 10.1 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 2.8 steals.

Still, it's early — and Etienne (26.8 points, 15.8 rebounds, 4.5 assists, 4.7 steals) and Abramowitz (15.2 points, 10.8 rebounds) raised the bar to noblesse territory, earning back-to-back MVP awards in leading the Falcons to their successive Class AA titles.

Higgins and Mohn say they try to emulate the examples, not the statistics, of the two MVPs.

"I learned more from them than anybody, leadership, being able to handle yourself under pressure, that your teammates can say, 'Hey, if he's under control, then everything's cool,'" Higgins said.

"You learn to make sure that everybody is doing what they're supposed to do," Mohn said. "You play your hardest. Teammates, he said, are looking up to you for leadership."

"Nino and Jake set a good example," Higgins said. "After seeing them do it, I realized it's not as hard as it seems, and it's easier when I have somebody there to help."

Not only are the Falcons aiming for their third straight Class AA title, they're doing it knowing they'll lack any home-court advantage: Kadema of Okinawa is hosting this year's tournament.

"The expectation is higher. The stakes are higher," Boyd said. "Once you've been to the top, it's hard to go back. We've set a standard at Seoul American. And this one's going to be tougher. We're going on the road. New gym, not the home crowd, different weather."

Higgins and Mohn certainly won't be strangers to the rest of the Far East — particularly the coaches whose teams the Falcons vanquished in the past two Class AA finals.

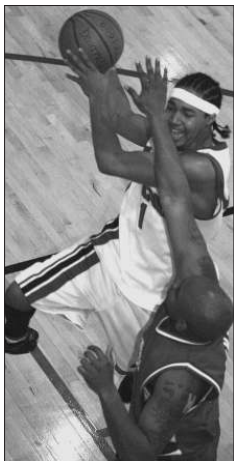
"They've been in steady, they get the job done and they do it in a good, steady team concept," said Chris Sullivan, whose Kubasaki Dragons of Okinawa fell 84-74 to Seoul American in the 2003 Class AA title game.

"Jay is tall, he can pass over any defense or back in and shoot over his opponent," Sullivan said. "Jake (is) a sparkplug off the bench. He'd come in and give the team instant energy, which is important for a sixth man."

Mohn's sixth-man abilities, indeed the depth of Seoul American's entire roster, left coach Nathan Brewster suitably impressed. His Nile C. Kinnick Red Devils of Japan fell 76-48 to the Falcons in the 2004 Class AA final.

"They never missed a beat when the bench came in and they just killed us," Brewster said. "It was almost like they were playing by committee."

That Higgins and Mohn still are underclass-



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Seoul American coach Steve Boyd is counting on junior guards Jay Higgins, top, and Jamaal Mohn to lead the Falcons' bid for a third straight Class AA basketball title. Higgins is averaging 9.8 points, 10.1 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 2.8 steals this season.

men and are to be the next season too, "not good, for us or anybody else for that matter," Brewster said.

The Falcons may lack standout players in the Abramowitz-Etienne mold, but Higgins said the lineup, featuring 5-11 senior speedster Philippe Anglade, junior three-point specialist Jeremy Christopher and 6-6 sophomore Anthony Gatlin, may be "just as strong as ever."

"We have developed as players and gotten better over the years and the supporting cast will help us out also," he said, adding that the key will be controlling the boards, getting out on the fast break and finishing. "If we do that, we'll be all right."

"It's easier said than done, though," Mohn added. "We have to bring out the determination. We know we're capable. If we show that at Far East, then nobody can hang with us."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauer@starsandstripes.com

### This week's schedule

#### Japan

##### Boys basketball

**Friday, Jan. 7**  
Yokota and E.J. King at Matthew C. Perry, 4 p.m.; Nile C. Kinnick at Christian Academy in Japan, 5:30 p.m.; Zama American at Robert O. Edgren, 5:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
Yokota and E.J. King at M.C. Perry, 10 a.m.; Zama American at Nile C. Kinnick, 10 a.m.; Mohn and Jay at Kinnick, 10 a.m.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 11**  
CAJ at St. Mary's Int'l, 5:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 12**  
Yokota at St. Mary's Int'l, 5:30 p.m.

##### Girls basketball

**Friday, Jan. 7**  
Yokota and E.J. King at Matthew C. Perry, 4 p.m.; Selsen Int'l vs. Robert O. Edgren at Camp Zama, 4 p.m.; Selsen Int'l at Zama American, 5:30 p.m.; Christian Academy in Japan at Nile C. Kinnick, 5:30 p.m.; Yokohama Int'l at Int'l School of the Sacred Heart, 5:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
Yokota and E.J. King at M.C. Perry, 10 a.m.; Nile C. Kinnick at Takahama Int'l, 10 a.m.; Int'l School of the Sacred Heart vs. Edgren at Camp Zama, 1 p.m.; Kinnick at St. Mary's Int'l, 1 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**  
Yokohama Int'l at Selsen Int'l, 5:30 p.m.; Zama at St. Mary's Int'l, 5:30 p.m.; CAJ at Yokota, 5:30 p.m.; Kinnick at American School in Japan, 5:30 p.m.

##### Wrestling

**Wednesday, Jan. 8**  
DODOS-Japan vs. Saitama, 9 p.m.; Sasebo Naval Base, 9 a.m.  
**Thursday, Jan. 12**  
St. Mary's Int'l at Christian Academy in Japan, 5:30 p.m.; Zama American at Yokota, 5:30 p.m.

#### Korea

##### Basketball

**Friday, Jan. 7**  
Seoul American at Pusan American, 5 p.m.; Osan American at Taegu American, 5:30 p.m.; Centennial Christian at Int'l Christian-Pyeongtaek, 5:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
Seoul American at Taegu American, 9 a.m.; Osan American at Pusan American, 9 a.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**  
Korea Kent Foreign at Centennial Christian, 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 12**  
Korea Int'l Christian vs. Taegu American, 2 p.m.; Taegu Christian Int'l at Taegu American, 3:30 p.m.; Int'l Christian-School at Seoul Foreign, 3:30 p.m.; Osan American at Seoul Int'l, 3:30 p.m.

#### Okinawa

##### Boys basketball

**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
Japanese school to be determined at Kubasaki, 7 p.m.; Kubasaki at Japanese school TBD at Kadema, 7 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 11**  
Kadema at Japanese school TBD, 7 p.m.; Kubasaki at Japanese school TBD, 7 p.m.

##### Girls basketball

**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
Japanese school to be determined at Kadema, 5 p.m.; Japanese school TBD at Kadema, 5 p.m.

##### Tuesday, Jan. 11

Kadema at Japanese school TBD, 5 p.m.; Kubasaki at Japanese school TBD, 5 p.m.

##### Wrestling

**Monday, Jan. 7**  
Kubasaki at Kadema, 6 p.m.

#### Game of the week

##### Girls basketball

**Seoul American (1-1) vs. Taegu American (5-0) (Jan. 5, 4 o'clock)**

Where: 3:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7.

Where: Taegu American School, Camp George.

What: First regular-season meeting of the two Korean-American Intercollegiate Athletic Conference teams expected to contend for both the league title and the Far East Class AA Tournament championship next month at Pusan, South Korea.

Osan Cougars are looking to return to the top of the Class A league, finishing second last year after winning in 2003 and 2004. Taegu Warriors have fallen on the last two years after finishing second in 2002 and third in 2003, but have perhaps their strongest team in school history.

Players to watch: Osan's attack centers around 6-foot-0, junior center Margaret Nurse, the tallest player in the league, who is averaging 10 points and 13.1 rebounds in the Cougars' first four games. Complementing her are returning guard Juergon (5.0 points per game) and newcomer Jessica Guerin (6.1 points, 3.8 rebounds).

Pusan's balanced attack is led by Lynette Grant (11.6 points, 8.2 rebounds), freshman Tajana Brown (10 points, 7.2 rebounds), senior Ashley Gooch (6.4 assists), and junior Kelly Cox (9 points, 12 rebounds).



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Seoul American junior guard Jamaal Mohn, top, is averaging 13.1 points, 4.8 assists and 2.9 steals per game for the Falcons.

*"These guys know their roles. They know what's expected. The other guys are an important part of the team, but these are the guys who make us go. They are the glue. And they have the ability."*

Steve Boyd

Seoul American boys basketball coach

## NBA scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
New York	14	16	.467
Philadelphia	14	16	.467
Boston	14	17	.452
New Jersey	18	18	.500
Toronto	21	21	.344

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	25	8	.758
Washington	15	13	.538
Orlando	13	15	.464
Charlotte	17	21	.447
Atlanta	9	24	.273

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Cleveland	12	16	.430
Detroit	13	15	.464
Indiana	15	13	.538
Chicago	18	10	.643
Milwaukee	9	18	.333

## Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	25	7	.781
Dallas	19	13	.593
Houston	15	15	.500
Memphis	17	16	.515
New Orleans	27	7	.793

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	23	6	.793
Minnesota	14	15	.484
Portland	14	15	.484
Denver	17	12	.588
Utah	11	24	.313

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	14	8	.636
Sacramento	9	19	.319
Los Angeles	12	17	.412
L.A. Clippers	15	15	.500
Golden State	11	20	.355

Monday's games			
Toronto 105, Orlando 94			
Boston 108, New Orleans 90			
Cleveland 84, Charlotte 83			
Seattle 98, Miami 96			
Memphis 92, Utah 82			
Chicago 87, Chicago 86			
L.A. Clippers 102, Denver 98			
Philadelphia 122, Golden State 104			

Tuesday's games			
Milwaukee at Indiana			
New Jersey at Washington			
Sacramento at New York			
Portland at Minnesota			
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio			

Wednesday's games			
Atlanta at Cleveland			
Golden State at New Orleans			
Sacramento at Toronto			
Seattle at Orlando			
Minnesota at Charlotte			
New York at Miami			
New Jersey at Milwaukee			
Chicago at New Orleans			
Phoenix at Houston			
Philadelphia at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			

Thursday's games			
Seattle at Washington			
San Antonio at Detroit			
Indiana at San Antonio			

Friday's games			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Philadelphia at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			

Saturday's games			
Seattle at Washington			
San Antonio at Detroit			
Indiana at San Antonio			

Sunday's games			
Toronto 105, Orlando 94			
Boston 108, New Orleans 90			
Cleveland 84, Charlotte 83			
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Tuesday's games			
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Sacramento at New York			
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L.A. Lakers at San Antonio			

Wednesday's games			
Atlanta at Cleveland			
Golden State at New Orleans			
Sacramento at Toronto			
Seattle at Orlando			
Minnesota at Charlotte			
New York at Miami			
New Jersey at Milwaukee			
Chicago at New Orleans			
Phoenix at Houston			
Philadelphia at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			

Thursday's games			
Seattle at Washington			
San Antonio at Detroit			
Indiana at San Antonio			

Friday's games			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Philadelphia at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			

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Seattle at Washington			
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L.A. Clippers 102, Denver 98			
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Tuesday's games			
Milwaukee at Indiana			
New Jersey at Washington			
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Portland at Minnesota			
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio			

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Golden State at New Orleans			
Sacramento at Toronto			
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New Jersey at Milwaukee			
Chicago at New Orleans			
Phoenix at Houston			
Philadelphia at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			

Thursday's games			
Seattle at Washington			
San Antonio at Detroit			
Indiana at San Antonio			

Friday's games			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Philadelphia at Portland			
Portland at L.A. Clippers			

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Seattle at Washington			
San Antonio at Detroit			
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Toronto 105, Orlando 94			
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Cleveland 84, Charlotte 83			
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Chicago 87, Chicago 86			
L.A. Clippers 102, Denver 98			
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Monday's games			
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Cleveland 84, Charlotte 83			
Seattle 98, Miami 96			
Memphis 92, Utah 82			
Chicago 87, Chicago 86			
L.A. Clippers 102, Denver 98			
Philadelphia 122, Golden State 104			

Tuesday's games			
Milwaukee at Indiana			
New Jersey at Washington			
Sacramento at New York			
Portland at Minnesota			
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio			

6:10-0-12, Bruce 4-9-2-10, Knight 1-0-0-2, Boggs 1-8-1-3, Rush 7-15-4-13, T.Smith 1-0-0-1, Ely 2-5-2-6, Hart 4-8-2-11, White 0-1-0-0, Kapono 6-15-2-15, Totals: 33-86-13-30-83.			
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Cleveland			
	W	L	Pct
Charlotte	22	27	.446
Three-Point Goals—Cleveland 12 (Harris 0-1, Pavlovic 0-1, Snow 0-1, Trayler 0-1, Newble 0-2, James 0-3, McInnis 0-3), Charlotte 4-13 (Hart 1-2, T.Smith 1-3, Rush 1-2, Kapono 1-3), Fouled out—By Rebounds—Cleveland 62 (Gooden 14, Charlotte 48 (Kapono 7, A.S. 12, Cleveland 12 (James 0-4, Cappelletti 21 (Knight) 9), Total fouls—Cleveland 13, Charlotte 14—12,890 (23,319).			

SuperSonics 98, Heat 96			
Seattle—Lewis 7-12-1-17, Evans 1-0-0-2, James 4-8-0-0, Boudreau 5-11-0-10, Allen 12-25-5-15, Fortson 4-8-1-9, Radmowski 4-8-4-13, Daniels 5-9-0-17, Collins 0-1-0-0, Totals 36-87 17-21-58.			

Miami			
	W	L	Pct
2-3-6, O'Neal 8-13-9-15-25, D.Jones 9-0-9-9, Wade 10-13-22-30, Delone 4-0-0-0, Anderson 1-3-2-4, Dooling 1-2-0-0, Laettner 0-0-0-0, Butler 0-0-0-0, Totals 37-20-26-36.			

Seattle			
	W	L	Pct
Three-Point Goals—Seattle 9-20 (Allen 6-10, Lewis 2-7, Daniels 1-1, Radmowski 0-2), Miami 4-14 (Jones 3-8, C.Jones 1-3, Anderson 0-4, Wade 0-1, Dooling 0-1), Fouled out—None, Rebounds—Seattle 19 (Lewis 10), Miami 14 (O'Neal 14), Assists—Seattle 14 (Allen 4), Miami 15 (Wade 9), C.Jones 23 (Garcia 7), Memphis 22 (Williams 6), Total fouls—Seattle 29, Miami 24, Technicals—Eaton 14, Daniels 7, Second Three, Haslam, A.—20,284 (13,600).			

Grizzlies 92, Jazz 82			
Utah—Harping 8-17-12-17, Boozer 8-9-4-8, Borchardt 4-10-2-4, Mele 0-0-0-0, Grice 5-3-12-12, J. Blair 5-5-11, Humphries 2-4-10, Snyder 2-0-0-0, Ayres 6-13-0-10, Totals 33-77-17-17-26.			

MEMPHIS			
	W	L	Pct
5-11-11, Miller 12-17-17, B. Blair 5-3-12-12, J. Blair 5-5-11, Humphries 2-4-10, Snyder 2-0-0-0, Ayres 6-13-0-10, Totals 33-77-17-17-26.			

Utah			
	W	L	Pct
Three-Point Goals—Utah 5-20 (Allen 6-10, Lewis 2-7, Daniels 1-1, Radmowski 0-2), Miami 4-14 (Jones 3-8, C.Jones 1-3, Anderson 0-4, Wade 0-1, Dooling 0-1), Fouled out—None, Rebounds—Seattle 19 (Lewis 10), Miami 14 (O'Neal 14), Assists—Seattle 14 (Allen 4), Miami 15 (Wade 9), C.Jones 23 (Garcia 7), Memphis 22 (Williams 6), Total fouls—Seattle 29, Miami 24, Technicals—Eaton 14, Daniels 7, Second Three, Haslam, A.—20,284 (13,600).			

Pistons 87, Bulls 80			
Detroit—Price 6-10-2-15, R.Wallace 4-14-10-0, B.Wallace 3-8-17-4, Billups 2-7-2-8, Hamilton 5-9-9-10, D.Jones 3-4-3, McDermott 5-9-9-10, Hunter 2-5-2-6, Campbell 0-0-0-0, Parker 0-0-0-0, Totals 33-73-19-27.			

CHICAGO			
	W	L	Pct
3-12-23-31-92, Miller 12-17-17, B. Blair 5-3-12-12, J. Blair 5-5-11, Humphries 2-4-10, Snyder 2-0-0-0, Ayres 6-13-0-10, Totals 33-77-17-17-26.			

Utah			
	W	L	Pct
Three-Point Goals—Utah 5-20 (Allen 6-10, Lewis 2-7, Daniels 1-1, Radmowski 0-2), Miami 4-14 (Jones 3-8, C.Jones 1-3, Anderson 0-4, Wade 0-1, Dooling 0-1), Fouled out—None, Rebounds—Seattle 19 (Lewis 10), Miami 14 (O'Neal 14), Assists—Seattle 14 (Allen 4), Miami 15 (Wade 9), C.Jones 23 (Garcia 7), Memphis 22 (Williams 6), Total fouls—Seattle 29, Miami 24, Technicals—Eaton 14, Daniels 7, Second Three, Haslam, A.—20,284 (13,600).			

Pistons 87, Bulls 80			
Detroit—Price 6-10-2-15, R.Wallace 4-14-10-0, B.Wallace 3-8-17-4, Billups 2-7-2-8, Hamilton 5-9-9-10, D.Jones 3-4-3, McDermott 5-9-9-10, Hunter 2-5-2-6, Campbell 0-0-0-0, Parker 0-0-0-0, Totals 33-73-19-27.			

CHICAGO			
	W	L	Pct
3-12-23-31-92, Miller 12-17-17, B. Blair 5-3-12-12, J. Blair 5-5-11, Humphries 2-4-10, Snyder 2-0-0-0, Ayres 6-13-0-10, Totals 33-77-17-17-26.			

Utah			
	W	L	Pct
Three-Point Goals—Utah 5-20 (Allen 6-10, Lewis 2-7, Daniels 1-1, Radmowski 0-2), Miami 4-14 (Jones 3-8, C.Jones 1-3, Anderson 0-4, Wade 0-1, Dooling 0-1), Fouled out—None, Rebounds—Seattle 19 (Lewis 10), Miami 14 (O'Neal 14), Assists—Seattle 14 (Allen 4), Miami 15 (Wade 9), C.Jones 23 (Garcia 7), Memphis 22 (Williams 6), Total fouls—Seattle 29, Miami 24, Technicals—Eaton 14, Daniels 7, Second Three, Haslam, A.—20,284 (13,600).			

Pistons 87, Bulls 80			
Detroit—Price 6-10-2-15, R.Wallace 4-14-10-0, B.Wallace 3-8-17-4, Billups 2-7-2-8, Hamilton 5-9-9-10, D.Jones 3-4-3, McDermott 5-9-9-10, Hunter 2-5-2-6, Campbell 0-0-0-0, Parker 0-0-0-0, Totals 33-73-19-27.			

CHICAGO			
	W	L	Pct
3-12-23-31-92, Miller 12-17-17, B. Blair 5-3-12-12, J. Blair 5-5-11, Humphries 2-4-10, Snyder 2-0-0-0, Ayres 6-13-0-10, Totals 33-77-17-17-26.			

7-8 21, Nene 7-14 6-7 20, D.Johnson 2-6 1-2 5, Miller 6-8 4-4 17, Russell 1-4 4-4 7, Elson 2-3 0-0 4, Tskitishvili 0-1 0-0 0, Boykins 5-11 2-3 13, White 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 34-79 25-30 98.	
<b>L.A. Clippers</b>	<b>33 27 14 28-102</b>
<b>Denver</b>	<b>24 26 26 22-98</b>

# Boggs, Sandberg headed for Hall

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wade Boggs was overwhelmingly elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility Tuesday, and Ryne Sandberg made it with just six votes to spare on his third try.

Boggs, a five-time American League batting champion for the Boston Red Sox, was selected by 474 of the record 516 voters who are 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

The 91.86 percent of ballots he received was the 19th-highest percentage in Hall history, and he became the 41st player elected on his first chance.

In total votes, Boggs trailed only Nolan Ryan (491) and George Brett (488).

"It's a mind-boggling to be put in the same category," said Boggs, who credited his success to his 79-year-old father, Winfield. "He coached me in Little League and got of nurtured me along — was there every phone call in the minor leagues."

Sandberg, the 1984 National League MVP for the Chicago Cubs, was picked by 393 voters. He appeared on 76.2 percent of ballots, just above the 75 percent cutoff (387). Sandberg received 49.2 percent of votes in 2003 and got 61.1 percent last year, falling 71 votes short.

"There's been some tremendous, tremendous players who waited longer than I had to wait to get into the Hall of Fame," Sandberg said.

Reliever Steve Sutter, appearing on the ballot for the 12th time, received 344 votes (66.7 percent), up from 301 last year but 43 shy of what was needed this time. He was followed by Jim Rice (307), Rich Gossage (285) and Andre Dawson (270).

"I'm not going to say I'm disappointed," Dawson said.

Willie McGee, also on the ballot for the first time, received 26 votes, exactly at the 5 percent cut-

off to avoid being dropped in future years. Darryl Strawberry got six votes in his first bid.

Pete Rose, ineligible for the ballot because of his lifetime ban from baseball, received nine write-in votes, six fewer than last year and his lowest total. Rose, who admitted last year that he bet on the Cincinnati Reds while managing them in the late 1980s, has been written in on 239 of 6,687 ballots (3.6 percent) over 14 years.

He must be reinstated by late November to appear on the ballot in 2006, the final year he would be eligible.

Boggs, known for his array of pre- and postgame rituals, was a 12-time All-Star during an 18-year career, finishing with 3,010 hits.

He won batting titles in 1983 and from 1985-88, becoming the first player to win the AL batting championship in four straight years since Rod Carew from 1972-75. Boggs, who hit .300 or



Wade Boggs, a 12-time All-Star and five-time AL batting champion, had a .328 career batting average and 3,010 hits.



The Cubs' Ryne Sandberg, a nine-time Gold Glove winner and 10-time All-Star who retired with a then-record 277 homers for a second baseman, was elected with only six votes to spare.

higher 15 times, finished with a .328 career average and was the only player in the 20th century with seven straight 200-hit seasons. He also became the first player to get 200 hits and 100 walks in four consecutive seasons.

A two-time Gold Glove winner at third base, Boggs played for the Red Sox from 1982-92, then spent five seasons with the New York Yankees, helping the team win the 1996 World Series and riding a police horse around Yankee Stadium after the final victory.

His final two seasons were with his hometown Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

"Here's a guy who didn't have the great, God-given talent and ability that a lot of people have, but he worked so hard at what he did, he made himself a lot better," former Red Sox teammate Ellis Burks said of Boggs.

"He's probably one of the most prolific hitters in baseball history," former Red Sox General Manager Lou Gorman said. "There's no question he should go to the Hall of Fame."

Sandberg was a nine-time Gold Glove second baseman and a 10-time All-Star. He hit 277 homers, the most by a second baseman at the time of his retirement, and led the NL with 40 in 1990. His .989 fielding percentage is the highest at the position.

Among the players eligible for the first time on next year's BWA's ballot are Orel Hershiser, Will Clark and Dwight Gooden.

# Air Force stifles Navy in its 19th straight home win

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Antoine Hood scored a season-high 23 points and Air Force played its usual stifling defense Monday night in a 69-46 victory over Navy.

Tim Keller, trying to get out of an early season shooting slump, went 2-for-3 from three-point range and finished with nine points. The Falcons (8-5) won their 19th straight home game, the fourth-longest streak in the nation.

Air Force, which has the top-ranked scoring defense in the nation, got 31 points off turnovers, handing a young, small team from Navy (4-8) that lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Laramie Mergerson had 13 points and George O'Garra had 12 points and five rebounds for the Midshipmen, who failed in to sweep football and basketball games from their military rivals this season.

Hood, a 6-foot-4 guard, did most of his damage down low, scoring 11 and hitting a variety of turnaround and scoop shots. He surpassed his previous season high of 17 points by making a three-point shot to give the Falcons a 55-37 lead midway through the second half.

While Hood was shining inside,

forward Jacob Burttschi handed out assists. He finished with four, three of which came in the opening minutes, all on nice passes to Nick Welch (13 points), who was cutting through the middle.

Burttschi's last two cuts after he dove for a loose ball and pushed a deft outlet pass upcourt to Hood, who made a layup as part of a 16-run run that turned the Falcons' 10-point lead into a runaway.

Air Force played its usual slow-down, Princeton-style offense and backed it up with good defense. The Falcons, who allow 51.5 points a game, forced 19 turnovers and Dan Nwaeleke had three of his team's nine steals.

Navy made 50 percent of its field-goal attempts, but only managed 34 shots. Junior David Hooper, Navy's second-leading scorer averaging 12.4 points a game, had only three in 21 minutes, setting season lows for points and playing time.

Led by Hood's 8-for-10 shooting, the Falcons went 24-for-40 from the floor (60 percent).

Air Force hasn't lost at Clune Arena in 1994, a February 2003 game, hosts Texas Pan-American on Wednesday before opening Mountain West Conference play at home Saturday against Colorado State.

Navy opens play in the Patriot League on Saturday at Lafayette.

# Lucas, Graham lift Okla. St.

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
The Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — John Lucas scored 14 of his 21 points in the final 6½ minutes of the first half, and Joey Graham sparked seventh-ranked Oklahoma State to a fast start after halftime in an 86-61 victory at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Monday.

The outbursts by the seniors made sure that the Cowboys (10-1), coming off a loss that

dropped them four spots in this week's poll, avoided an upset.

Corpus Christi (9-4), an NCAA independent in just its sixth season, hosted a ranked team for the first time and had a seven-point lead after 10 minutes.

Graham scored eight points in a 13-0 run in the first four minutes after halftime to push the Cowboys ahead 44-28.

Graham finished with 20 points and nine rebounds for the Cowboys, who play only teams from the Big 12 until the NCAA's.

NFL  
Challenge

Hall  
of  
Fame

## Top Scores for Week 17

240	steelers on the rhine
220	davez
214	Skiz2715
212	Steel Thunder
212	broncobone
204	God's Chosen
200	q-daddy
200	crewsninq
200	magg544
200	TeamJohnson

Sembach AB
Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne
Kadena
Buechel AB
A Trip 1-4 Cav
Ramstein AB GE
Misawa
Dec 29th Sig Bn
Central Texas College
D 701 MSB

2964
2962
2958
2944
2934
2934
2926
2926
2924
2922

STEELEFROGWOOD
Jack58
Joe Corleón
SPIELMEISTER 04
Who Cares
giants#1
cowboy48
Jaguar One
JMAC
adettenns

MAG-12
422 ABS RAF Croughton
Misawa
Hohenfels
MNF-1 DCSPER
hbc 2/37 ar
Rein Main AB
DoDOS
DECA
Babenhausen

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

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## SPORTS

Wade  
Boggs

Boggs, Sandberg  
headed to Cooperstown,  
Page 28

Ryne  
Sandberg

# Auburn states its case for No. 1

## No. 3 Tigers beat Va. Tech in Sugar Bowl to finish 13-0

BY NANCY ARMOUR  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — High above the field, a tiny handwritten sign read, "Auburn's No. 1 in my poll."

The Tigers ought to frame it, because that's likely to be the only place they're No. 1.

Needing a dominant display to keep its improbable hopes of splitting the national championship alive, the third-ranked Tigers instead limped to a 16-13 victory over No. 9 Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl on Monday night. Their offense was bland and their defense gave up two late touchdowns.

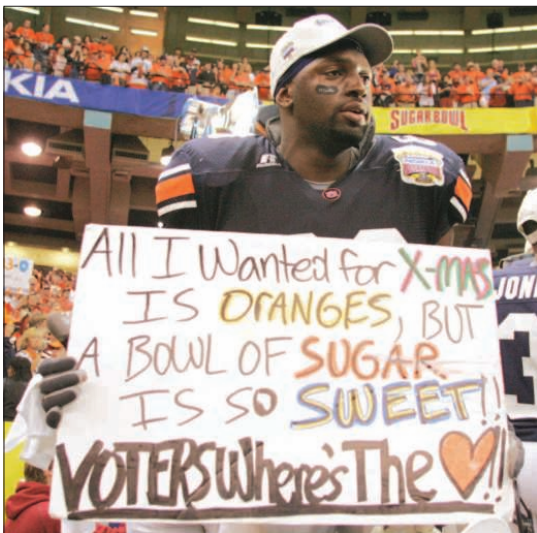
Even their postgame party was subdued, far from the raucous scene after last month's Southeastern Conference title game.

"Not having a chance to win the national championship is not a good feeling," receiver Courtney Taylor said. "We'd play the winner of the Orange Bowl at any time. We're love to play them. But they're in the title game, and we're not."

The Tigers at least preserved their perfect season, becoming the first Auburn squad to finish 13-0. But that will be small consolation when they watch Tuesday night's Orange Bowl between No. 1 Southern Cal and No. 2 Oklahoma, knowing the winner of that game will almost certainly be the undisputed national champion.

"People just don't understand how hard it is to go 13-0," said Jason Campbell, who threw for one touchdown. "I'm not going to sit here and say we're No. 2 behind anybody. I feel like we're No. 1."

SEE AUBURN ON PAGE 31



Above, Auburn's Jay Ratliff holds a sign reflecting his thoughts after his team beat Virginia Tech 16-13 in the Sugar Bowl at the Louisiana Superdome on Monday in New Orleans. Left, Virginia Tech QB Bryan Randall was pressured into uncharacteristic mistakes, including two interceptions. Right, Auburn QB Jason Campbell (11-for-16, 189 yards, TD) was chosen as the game's MVP.

AP photos



## SEC champs' defense might be best, despite two late TDs

BY JOHN ZENOR  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Auburn's defense, at least, made a decent case for No. 1.

Thrust into several tough situations, the third-ranked Tigers stymied No. 9 Virginia Tech and Bryan Randall for most of Monday night's 16-13 victory in the Sugar Bowl.

The nation's top scoring defense produced a little bit of everything: a goal-line stand, two key interceptions and a handful of bone-jarring tackles.

"It all comes down to defense," coach Tommy Tuberville said.

It sure did this time. Fabulous for 53 minutes, Auburn (13-0) did have a shaky finish defensively. The close score didn't help the team's hopes of sharing the national title, but it hardly hurt the Tigers' claim that they have the best defense in the country.

Auburn gave up two touchdowns passes by Randall in the final seven minutes, including an 80-yarder to Josh Morgan with two minutes left when free safety Will Herring fell down.

Auburn's defenders more than compensated for an offense that coughed up two second-half turnovers, holding the Hokies scoreless for the first 53 minutes.

The Tigers harried Randall, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, into rare mistakes and held the Hokies to 299 yards, 66 below their season average.

"We put pressure on them," safety Junior Rosegreen said. "We tried to rattle them a little bit."

SEE DEFENSE ON PAGE 31

## Utah QB Smith, Cal QB Rodgers decide to skip senior seasons, enter NFL Draft

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## Air Force's slow-down offense, tough defense account for easy victory over Navy, 19th straight home win

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## SuperSonics use three-pointers, rebounding to stop Heat's franchise-record win streak at 14

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## Seahawks' Alexander backs off 'stabbed' remark Page 29

